FRIDAY
April 3, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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WOMEN'S RESERVATION ACT

Extended Parliament session to debate law

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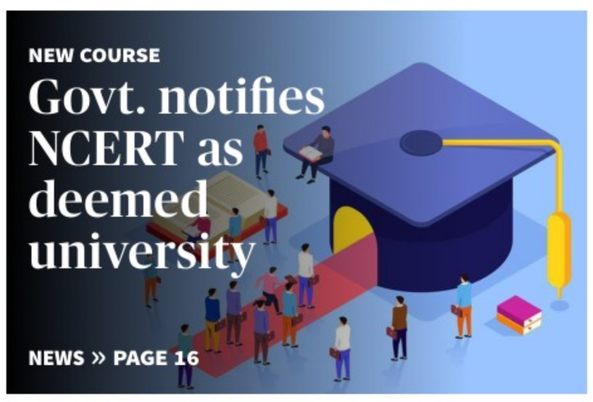

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Govt. notifies NCERT as deemed university

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Global, national issues sway Kerala campaign

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Has cinema defined political success in T.N.?

Actor Vijay's entry calls for a scrutiny of trend

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Sunrisers prove too hot for Knight Riders

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Gherao of judicial officers in Bengal a challenge to SC: CJI

He says the violence in Malda district was not a routine incident but a 'calculated, well-planned and deliberate move' to demoralise judicial officers and sway the adjudication process; 'complete failure' of civil, police administration, says court

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said a mob gherao of seven judicial officers, confining them without food or water for more than nine hours at a government office in Malda district of West Bengal, reportedly after several voters were struck off the electoral rolls in the special intensive revision (SIR) was not only a "brazen attempt" to browbeat the officers but also amounted to a challenge to the authority of the top court.

Hundreds of judicial officers have been deployed on the basis of a Supreme Court order to function as Election Registration Officers and adjudicate objections raised by voters excluded from the rolls during the SIR ahead of the Assembly election scheduled for April 23 and 29.

Row over roll: People lay siege to the BDO office at Kaliachak Block II in Malda, where seven judicial officers were gheraoed on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

> This was not a routine incident. It was *ex facie* a calculated, well-planned and deliberate move to demoralise the judicial officers and impact the ongoing process of adjudication of objections. We will not allow anyone to interfere and take law into their hands by causing fear in the minds of judicial officers. This undoubtedly amounts to criminal contempt
>
> **JUSTICE SURYA KANT**
> CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

Noting that three of the judicial officers were women, the court said the incident exposed the "complete failure of the civil and police administration in the State of West Bengal".

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, heading a three-judge Bench, asked what the political leaders were doing during all those hours of captivity – could they not have gone to the spot and calmed down the situation.

A shocked court pointed out that the judicial officers were pelted with stones as they were finally rescued and led out by the police after being detained from 3.30 p.m. on Wednesday till well past midnight.

"This was not a routine incident. It was *ex facie* a calculated, well-planned and deliberate move to demoralise the judicial officers and impact the ongoing process of adjudication of objections. We will not allow anyone to interfere and take law into their hands by causing fear in the minds of judicial officers. This undoubtedly amounts to criminal contempt," Chief Justice Kant observed.

He said he had never seen such a "politically polarised State like West Bengal". Addressing the West Bengal side, he said, "You are forcing us to say. Unfortunately in your State, each one of you speaks a political language... I have never seen such a politically polarised State."

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Governor bound by Cabinet's advice on remission: Madras HC

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

Full Bench of the court was answering a reference over two conflicting decisions in 2024 by two other Division Benches

A Full Bench of the Madras High Court on Thursday held that the Governor, whether he/she likes it or not, is bound by the advice of the Council of Ministers while exercising powers under Article 161 of the Constitution in matters relating to remission and premature release of convicts.

The Bench comprising Justices A.D. Jagadish Chandira, G.K. Ilanthiraiyan and Sunder Mohan ruled that the Governor, under no circumstance, could exercise any discretion whatsoever to take a different view from the one taken by the Council of Ministers. The Bench was answering a reference made to it by a Division Bench.

The Division Bench consisting of Justices M.S. Ramesh (since retired) and V. Lakshminarayanan had referred the matter to the larger Bench, for an authoritative pronouncement, in September 2025 after coming across two conflicting decisions delivered in 2024 by two other Division Benches of the High Court on the issue.

While answering the reference, the Full Bench agreed with State Public Prosecutor Hasan Mohamed Jinnah and advocate M. Radhakrishnan that the issue had been settled by a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court as early as 1980.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

NEARBY

LPG crisis hits autorickshaw services in city

BENGALURU
Bengaluru witnessed widespread disruption in auto services on Thursday, hit by an acute shortage of auto LPG. Long queues of autos outside fuel stations were a common sight. » PAGE 5

Sneha Centres to be expanded

BENGALURU
Karnataka has approved the expansion of adolescent-friendly Sneha Centres and the establishment of integrated counselling units across government health facilities to strengthen services.

» PAGE 7

METROPLUS » PAGE 9

GBA floats tender for setting up 'Guarantee Seva Kendras'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The GBA has floated a tender to establish and operate 10 comprehensive citizen service centres called GBA Guarantee Seva Kendras (GSKs) across the city, aimed at streamlining access to a wide range of civic services under a single roof.

With this, citizens will be able to apply for services, track their applications, and receive final approvals or documents at the same location, essentially eliminating the need to visit multiple offices, and they are guided through the entire process until completion. Each zone will have one GSK (two per corporation) for smooth operations.

Once done, these centres will offer nearly 24 citizen services, including e-Khata issuance, trade licences, building plan approvals, property tax payments, birth and death certificates, new khata issuance, B khata to A khata conversions, among others. The GSKs will operate all days of the week and 12 hours per day, which is 8 am to 8 pm.

The development comes after D.K. Shivakumar announced that the GBA will establish seva centres modelled around passport seva kendras.

RELATED REPORT ON » PAGE 2

Historic lift-off

Glowing feat: Four astronauts blasted off for a journey around the moon from Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, the U.S., around 6.35 p.m. local time on Wednesday. The Artemis II mission is the first crewed lunar flyby in more than 50 years. AFP (REPORT ON PAGE 18)

Proposal to raise permissible deviation limit in constructions

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The five city corporations of Bengaluru have proposed to increase the permissible deviation limit in building constructions from the existing 5% to 15%, by amending building bylaws.

The corporations have also proposed to impose a penalty for the regularisation of the deviation within permissible limits as a percentage of guidance value of the plot, indicating it is also a revenue-mopping exercise.

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has termed it a "people-friendly decision".

"Due to the high land prices in Bengaluru and various unavoidable reasons, it has been observed that many plot owners have constructed buildings with certain deviations from the sanctioned plan, often leaving reduced setbacks and facing difficulties.

Under the current rules, only up to 5% deviation can be regularised.

As a result, many such buildings are unable to obtain Occupancy Certificates from City Corporations, making it difficult to get water supply and electricity connections," M. Maheshwar Rao, Commissioner, GBA, said.

RELATED REPORT ON » PAGE 2

Iran fires missiles at Israel, Gulf states as Trump talks of winding down war

Associated Press
DUBAI

Iran fired more missiles at Israel and Gulf Arab states on Thursday, demonstrating Tehran's continued ability to strike its neighbours even as U.S. President Donald Trump claimed the threat from the country was nearly eliminated and predicted the war would end soon.

U.S. President Donald Trump speaks about the Iran war from the Cross Hall of the White House in Washington on Wednesday. AP

Iran's attacks on Gulf states and its chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz have disrupted the world's energy supplies. That has proved to be Iran's greatest strategic advantage in the war.

Mr. Trump has insisted the strait can be taken by force – but said it is not up to the U.S. to do that. In an address on Wednesday night, he encouraged countries that depend on oil from Hormuz to "build some delayed courage" and go "take it".

Before the U.S. and Israel started the war on February 28 with strikes on Iran, the waterway was open and 20% of all traded oil used to pass through it.

Iran responded defiantly to Mr. Trump's speech in which he claimed U.S. military action had been so decisive that "one of the most powerful countries" is "really no longer a threat".

A spokesperson for Iran's military, Lt. Col. Ebrahim Zolfaghari, insisted on Thursday that Tehran maintains hidden stockpiles of arms, munitions and production facilities. He said facilities targeted so far by U.S. strikes are "insignificant".

Just before Mr. Trump began his address in which he said U.S.' "core strategic objectives are nearing completion", explosions were heard in Dubai as air defences worked to intercept Iranian missiles.

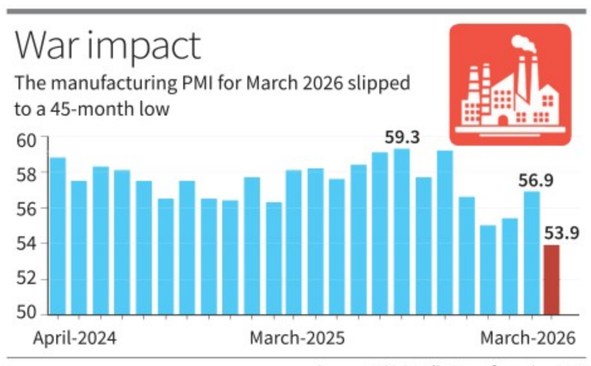
CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Hit by West Asia crisis, manufacturing activity slows to 45-month low in March

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Manufacturing sector activity slowed to its lowest level in nearly four years in March 2026, dragged down by the impact of the war in West Asia on costs, demand, and new order levels, according to a survey of private sector companies.

The HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) – a measure of overall conditions based on new orders, output, employment, supplier delivery times and stocks of purchases – fell sharply from 56.9 in February to 53.9 in March, marking the lowest reading since June 2022. A reading above 50 denotes expansion, while a reading below that level indicates contraction.



Source: HSBC India Manufacturing PMI

"Growth in India's manufacturing industry took a step back in March as cost pressures, fierce competition, heightened market uncertainty, and the war in the Middle East all contributed to softer increases in new orders and output," the report stated. "Firms also faced an intensification of cost pressures, the steepest since August 2022."

The report went on to say that the two largest sub-components of the PMI – new orders and output – rose at their slowest rates since mid-2022.

"Anecdotal evidence showed that growth was curbed by challenging market conditions, cost pressures, and the war in the Middle East," it added. "March data saw input prices increase to the greatest extent in over three and a half years. Aluminium, chemicals, fuel, jute, leather, fabric, oil, rubber, and steel were some of the items reported to have increased in price."

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Suryavanshi — how young is young?

Now that he has formally crossed the ICC threshold age of 15, a raging debate is underway on whether the left-handed batter should be fast-tracked to the Indian white-ball team; the special ones are always a step ahead of the opposition and have a counter for every game plan

GETTY IMAGES

R. Kaushik

Suryavanshi celebrated turning 15 with the third fastest half-century in IPL history, off a mere 15 deliveries, as Royals hammered five-time former champions Super Kings in Guwahati on Monday

Hasan Raza is officially regarded as the youngest man to play international cricket. Raza was supposedly 14 years and 227 days old when, recognising his precocious talent, Pakistan handed him a Test debut against Zimbabwe, back in October 1996. Subsequent doubts over his date of birth and the veracity of medical tests forced a climbdown from the Pakistan Cricket Board, his actual age pegged at around 15 on debut, though the records continue to show that he was '14 years and 227 days' young when he turned out at Faisalabad's Iqbal Stadium.

In his only bat in the game, the right-hander made a composed 27, batting at No. 5, in Pakistan's first-innings tally of 267. Walking in at 67 for three in response to Zimbabwe's 133 all out on day one of the game, he put on 60 with Saeed Anwar and was the fifth batter dismissed, by left-arm pacer Bryan Strang, after showcasing brief glimpses of his immense skills during his 64-minute stay in the middle.

It wasn't until two years later that he doubled his tally of Test caps, and he had to wait four further years before playing a third Test, against Australia in Sharjah in October 2002. With knocks of 54 not out and 68 in an innings defeat, he finally seemed to be coming to terms with the demands of the five-day game. But after six further innings without a half-century, his Test career came to a grinding halt.

In all, Raza figured in seven Tests spread over nine years, finishing with 235 runs at an average of 26.11, though during a 21-year first-class career, he amassed 13,949 runs in 232 matches at an average of 44.70, 256 the highest of his 36 centuries. He also played 197 List A (domestic 50-over games) and 36 T20s, though even in the 50-over format, he hardly made waves at the international level.

No surprise

It's no surprise that the five officially youngest international male cricketers are all from the subcontinent - four from Pakistan, and Sachin Tendulkar, India's youngest debutant at 16 years and 205 days and whose career was clearly and properly documented from very early on. For one thing, especially across the border, dates of birth are a highly contentious subject; for another, Asian countries have historically been less wary of throwing young talent into the deep end compared to the other nations which have tended to embrace a more conservative approach.

Raza will, all other things being equal, remain the youngest male to play international cricket. In 2020, to safeguard the welfare and safety of minors, the International Cricket Council enacted a 15-year eligibility rule which mandates that an individual should have celebrated their 15th birthday to be eligible for selection to their national side. There is an 'exception' clause to the rule which can be invoked in extraordinary circumstances, though it is unlikely that member boards will fall back on that with any degree of regularity.

Vaibhav Suryavanshi will, therefore, not become the youngest male to play international cricket, but if he earns his first senior cap over the next 550 days or thereabouts, the new boy wonder will supplant the original BW, Tendulkar, as India's youngest. Just a day before IPL 2026 kicked off last Saturday, Suryavanshi rang in his 15th birthday quietly. He went to bed early on March 27, ostensibly to avoid the mandatory cake-smearing ritual, though what is 'early to bed' for a 15-year-old when he is not burning the midnight oil preparing for exams is open to question.

Now that he has formally crossed the ICC threshold, a raging debate is underway on whether Suryavanshi should be fast-tracked to the Indian white-ball team. The very fact that he has catalysed these discussions must be considered a win for the baby-faced assassin who has so quickly stormed the consciousness of the average Indian cricket fan, and of fans in other parts of the world as well. There is a certain poise and maturity which totally belies the minimal years he has spent on the earth that suggest that he may not be out of place in the unforgiving cauldron of international cricket, but there are numerous cautionary tales of the past, Raza included, which serve as a red flag against his hasty introduction to senior country vs country battles.

If it weren't this serious an issue, this would have been hilarious, one suspects. A 15-year-old playing international cricket? Really? Standing up to bowlers charging in, determined to crank up the pace if only to scare the young lad waiting patiently for the ball to arrive. On Tendulkar's debut, we were informed later, Pakistan's quicks - Wasim Akram, skipper Imran Khan, Waqar Younis and Shahid Saeed, the last two also making their first Test appearances - were 'afraid' they would end up badly injuring the curly-mopped little fella. Thirty-seven years, such sentiments don't hold much water; it's each man for himself, whether he is 15 or 35, and especially having witnessed Suryavanshi's exploits at various levels, it is unlikely that bowlers will be as charitable as the Pakistani quartet of 1989 was.

These exploits include an extraordinary 175 in the final of the Under-19 World Cup against England in Harare two months back. They are headlined by a 35-ball century against Gujarat Titans in only his third game in the IPL, in 2025, which made him the youngest to smack a 20-over century at the senior level. Prior to that, he had created history by becoming the youngest to be picked in the IPL; just 13 at the time of the auction ahead of IPL 2025, he was snapped up for Rs 1.1 crore by Rajasthan Royals. It seemed an ambitiously overpriced buy at the time; Rajasthan are having the last laugh at the bargain acquisition, given the giant strides the teenaged wunderkind has made in the last dozen or so months.

Before the start of Season 19 of the IPL, Riyan Parag, in his first full season as the full-time RR captain, urged Suryavanshi to steer clear of press conferences, and revealed that he had told his left-handed opener to stay fearless and trust his natural game. Parag added, "Of course, he will have some pressure coming his way, but I am going to tell him that whatever pressure is going to be there, Jaiswal will handle it as he is good enough to handle that role."

Innocuous remarks, right? Just what you would expect from a captain who is protective of his young charge, correct? Except, that the captain himself is only 24, the same age as the man he said is 'good enough to handle that role'.

Yashasvi Jaiswal is one half of the feared left-handed Rajasthan opening combine. At 24, he is a veteran of 28 Test matches from which he averages 49.2, so one can perfectly understand what Parag was saying. But for one 24-year-old to place his faith in another 24-year-old to insulate a 15-year-old from pressure? Wow. Wonder how that makes soon-to-be 39-year-old Rohit Sharma and 37-year-old Virat Kohli feel...

Suryavanshi celebrated turning 15 with the third fastest half-century in IPL history, off a mere 15 deliveries as Rajasthan hammered five-time former champions Chennai Super Kings in Guwahati on Monday. It was a breathtaking innings, audacious and unfettered, the ball going exactly where he intended it to go until he was caught in the deep looking for a sixth six. Guess who holds the record for the fastest IPL fifty, in 13 balls? Jaiswal himself, 21 years old when he achieved that feat in May 2023. What are these lads made of?

Blazing knock

That blazing knock during which he pulverised an attack comprising Matt Henry, Khaleel Ahmed, Anshul Kamboj, Noor Ahmad and Jamie Overton, all internationals, reiterated what a special little batter this kid from Tajpur village in the state of Bihar is. Not that anyone had forgotten his heroics of the previous season, or his decimation of the England lads in the World Cup final, but in the euphoria of the T20 World Cup triumph last month, much of the focus was trained on Abhishek Sharma and Sanju Samson, on Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav and Hardik Pandya. Quietly, in as much as Suryavanshi's scything willow can be accused of being quiet, the strongly-built teenager reminded anyone who needed reminding of his supreme skills that he is no flash in the pan, no 'one-and-done' kind of individual.

It is said, and not without good reason, that in professional sport, the second season is the most challenging and arduous of anyone's career. There is a certain lack of detailed information that can often facilitate first-season success in any discipline, but by the second year, there is so much data available that dissecting styles and games and identifying strengths and exposing weaknesses has become so remarkably easy. Suryavanshi is no longer an unknown commodity. There is already so much footage of him dismantling bowling attacks that there are no more secrets, no mystery to how he bats.

The challenges

The special ones are always a step ahead of the opposition. They have a counter for every game plan, an uncanny and innate problem-solving methodology that allows them to not just hold their own but also dominate when they are confronted by unusual challenges. There is no denying that Suryavanshi is special because the evidence pointing towards that is overwhelming and unquestionable when it comes to white-ball cricket. An average of 44.12 and a strike-rate of 164.95 in eight List A outings, and corresponding numbers of 41.83 and 209.16 in 19 senior T20 innings (aided by 57 fours and 67 sixes from 360 balls faced) point to both consistency and explosiveness. But whether that necessarily means that he must be draped in the blue of the senior Indian white-ball team just yet is another matter altogether.

Suryavanshi has a lifetime of cricket ahead of him. It won't be the worst idea to let him play a full season of cricket for Bihar, a season that includes 50- and 20-over and first-class games, instead of catapulting him to the highest level this early. There will be inevitable failures from which he can learn; the unfortunate anonymity of domestic cricket is a more appropriate learning ground than cricket at the highest level, where the scrutiny is immense, especially when it comes to a 15-year-old Indian cricketer. But hey, this is Vaibhav Suryavanshi we are talking about, so who really knows anything at all?

THE GIST

- There is a certain poise and maturity which totally belies the minimal years Suryavanshi has spent on the earth that suggest that he may not be out of place in the unforgiving cauldron of international cricket, but there are numerous cautionary tales of the past
- Suryavanshi is no longer an unknown commodity. There is already so much footage of him dismantling bowling attacks that there are no more secrets, no mystery to how he bats
- He has a lifetime of cricket ahead of him. It won't be the worst idea to let him play a full season of cricket for Bihar, a season that includes 50- and 20-over and first-class games, instead of catapulting him to the highest level this early

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Over 3L properties may get OC relief as deviation norms eased

The proposal aims to relax the permissible deviation limit in building constructions from the existing 5% to 15%

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The proposal to relax the permissible deviation limit in building constructions from the existing 5% to 15% within the Greater Bengaluru Area is aimed at providing relief to lakhs of properties stuck without Occupancy Certificates (OCs), without which they are not able to get utility service connections like power and water.

Around 3 to 3.5 lakh properties in Bengaluru are said to be stuck without getting an OC due to deviation beyond 5% from the sanctioned plan, following a December 2024 Supreme Court order which mandated OC for utility service connections.

The relaxation now proposed, while it will bring in additional revenue to the civic bodies, will help clear a big chunk of properties now stuck for OCs, sources said.

At least 40% of these properties will benefit from the relaxation, sources in the GBA said.

Maximum condonable limits of deviation against permissible limits

Type of building	Total setback area on all sides	Setback on any side	Maximum deviation allowed in coverage	Maximum deviation allowed in FAR	Height of the building (not beyond sanctioned numbers of floors)
All buildings of height below 15 m in plots of extent up to 500 sq.m	15%	Half of the required setback measured linearly, provided deviation in total setback area shall not exceed 15%	Up to setback deviation limits	15%	7.5%
All buildings of height above / below 15 m in plots of extent above 500 sq.m	15%	15% (measured linearly)	15%	5%	7.5%

Compounding fee for condoning deviations in FAR area

Use of building	Deviations within permissible limits of zonal regulations	Deviations beyond the permissible limits of zonal regulations but not exceeding 15% of the permissible limits
Residential (In site area up to 500 sq. m)	3%	6%
Residential (In site area above 500 sq. m)	5%	10%
Non–residential (commercial / industrial / other uses)	6%	12%

Around 3 to 3.5 lakh properties in Bengaluru are said to be stuck without getting an OC due to deviation beyond 5% from the sanctioned plan

height above 15 m in plots of extent above 500 sq. m.

Wherever the setback deviation allowed amounts to FAR area deviation in excess of the condonable limits, such FAR area may be sanctioned by utilizing Premium FAR or TDR.

FAR deviation shall not be applicable for buildings which have utilized additional FAR (TDR/Premium FAR) or are eligible for utilization of additional FAR.

Deviation of FAR area in such buildings shall be condoned by utilizing TDR/Premium FAR, the notification says.

While it allows deviation in the height of the building by 7.5% across all categories, it bars regularisation of any additional floors.

Penalty

Earlier, deviations up to 5% were regularised with a penalty calculated based on construction cost, sources said. However, as per the new notification, it will be calculated as a function of the Guidance Value of the plot. This fee across categories will vary between 3% and 10% for residential buildings and 6% and 12% for non-residential buildings. The penalty will be calculated for only the deviation area being regularised. Further, the notification said that the compounding fee shall be levied for the total area of 'deviation in FAR' or 'total covered area of setback infringement in all floors', whichever is higher.

GBA is collecting 5% of the guidance value of the B Khata plot being regularised and awarded an A Khata. Regularisation of deviations will also now be calculated as a function of guidance value. This is expected to bring in additional revenue to the corporations, though there has been no estimate at the city level.

Opposed

However, civic activists who have been fighting the Akrama-Sakrama scheme since its introduction, have opposed the proposal on relaxation of the permissible limit of deviation from sanctioned plan as well.

"Under the Akrama-Sakrama scheme, the government proposed to regularise up to 50% of the deviation, which has been stayed by the apex court in 2017. Now the GBA has proposed to relax the deviation from 5% to 15%, a step towards the proposed 50% in the Akrama-Sakrama scheme.

Any regularisation of violations, will only further encourage people to violate norms, with a confidence that they will be regularised post-facto at a later date. This is also unfair for rule-abiding citizens," said N.S. Mukunda, of Bengaluru Praja Vedike, one of the petitioners against Akrama-Sakrama scheme.

GBA's GSKs to offer doorstep delivery of citizen services

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Major services offered through GBA GSK

- Issuance of e-Khata
- Conversion of B-Khata to A-Khata
- New Khata for individual properties
- Bulk new Khatas for layouts
- Tree cutting/ felling permissions
- Property tax issues
- Trade licence issuance and renewal
- Approval of development plans

A key feature of the GBA Guarantee Seva Kendras (GSK) is doorstep service delivery, in which the citizens will have the option to avail themselves of services from home. When requested, trained personnel called 'Seva Mitras' will visit residences to assist with applications, verification, and documentation.

Seva Mitras will be equipped with tablets, identification, and connectivity tools and will operate between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Further, they will also extend services that require field verifications, such as property-related applications, and will carry out on-ground inspections. These verifications are expected to be completed within 48 hours of receiving an application.

Each GSK office will span at least 5,000 sq. ft, designed as a full-service public interface for services offered by the GBA and the five city corporations. They will be fully equipped with digital infrastructure, high-speed internet, dedicated spaces for help desks, service counters, waiting areas, and offices for officials to handle large volumes of applications efficiently. At all the centres, government officials, including officers from the GBA and city corporations, will work within these facilities to scrutinise and approve applications, allowing many services to be processed and decided "then and there".

The infrastructure and staffing at the centres are also expected to scale up based on demand, allowing the system to handle increasing volumes of citizen requests. The centres will integrate multiple civic platforms currently used for services such as e-Khata, new Khata registration, property tax payments, building plan approvals, and trade licences.All services will be accessible through a unified interface at the centres.

Beyond physical visits, a helpline and online system will support citizens by providing information, guidance, and real-time updates on application status. This is aimed at addressing a common pain point where applicants are often left in the dark about the progress of their requests.

The model allows for expansion of services beyond core government offerings. Additional services from other government departments or even private entities may be added over time.

BDA floats tenders for Revised Master Plan 2041 for its jurisdiction

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After years of delay, work on preparing the Revised Master Plan-2041 (RMP) for Bengaluru is finally gathering momentum, with the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) floating tenders on Thursday.

However, the exercise for the BDA will be limited, as the work has been shared between the BDA and the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). According to the tender notification, the BDA has called tenders to plan areas under its jurisdiction, which lie on the city periphery and span over 450 sq. km. For the remaining 710 sq. km, the GBA will prepare the master plan.

According to a source in the BDA, the agency has now called tenders for technical expertise and the creation of a base map, while the actual planning will be undertaken by the Authority civic body. The BDA has estimated that the exercise may cost approximately ₹8 crore.

Once land use is finalised, the BDA will coordinate with the GBA for road network planning.

Cynosure of all eyes

A priest dressed in female attire carries a flower-decked earthen pot (Karaga) on his head during the 'Bengaluru Karaga' festival at the Dharmaraya Swamy temple in Bengaluru on Thursday. PTI

GBA directs five corporations to step up pre-monsoon preparedness

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Among key locations flagged for attention are Panathur 'S' Cross, Silk Board, Madiwala, and Rajarajeshwari Nagar, which have witnessed flooding in recent years. K. MURALI KUMAR

In view of the approaching pre-monsoon and monsoon seasons, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) on Thursday has directed all five city corporations to undertake comprehensive preparedness measures to prevent flooding and public inconvenience.

Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao, in a circular issued on Thursday, said that the disaster management responsibilities rest with the respective Commissioners of the city corporations. He instructed officials to ensure that all precautionary steps are completed well before the onset of rains.

The GBA has identified 49 flood-prone locations to be addressed this year. Officials have been asked to review measures taken so far and ensure permanent solutions are in place. Where long-term fixes are pending, Chief Engineers have been directed to coordinate with the GBA's Project Implementation Unit. Additional Commissioners must monitor progress and submit action taken reports. Stormwater drain (*rajakaluve*) works have been prioritised, with instructions to complete ongoing projects in vulnerable areas. Officials have also been asked to finish desilting and cleaning of roadside drains by April-end.

BESCOM and BWSSB will be deployed in control rooms, while coordination with fire services and disaster response teams has been mandated.

NAIN conclave showcases student innovation from smaller towns

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

The student-developed technologies displayed at the exhibition addressed challenges across healthcare, environment, agriculture, digital transformation, and social innovation. THE HINDU

While many major sporting leagues today, from the IPL to the Premier League, are a remarkable amalgamation of sport and technology, what about India's very own kabaddi?

Students at Mangalore Institute of Technology and Engineering, Moodbidri, may have something to offer to the high-intensity game – an intelligent mat system that detects player contact in real time, identifying touches, tackles and scoring events, and could thus help the referee make accurate decisions.

Christened 'Tech Kabaddi', it was one of the 60 projects from ten tier-2 and tier-3 colleges in Karnataka displayed at the New Age Innovation Network Conclave at International Institute of Information Technology - Bangalore (IIIT-B).

The student-developed technologies displayed at the exhibition addressed challenges across healthcare, environment, agriculture, digital transformation, and social innovation.

Compendium

A compendium on the student innovators, startups, and institutions was released at the conclave. Lakshmi Jagannathan, CEO, IIIT-B Innovation Centre, noted that the conclave was a culmination of the creativity and technical excellence of students from cities and towns beyond Bengaluru.

"It highlights how young innovators are leveraging emerging technologies to solve complex societal challenges and contribute to India's journey towards becoming a resilient, technology-driven nation," she added.

The New Age Innovation Network programme was conceived with the idea of nurturing student innovators and promoting a culture of entrepreneurship

A large number of projects displayed at the exhibition focused on agri-tech. Some of these included liquid nano-fertiliser developed from sewage water, paper made from areca waste, an automated harvesting system that identifies and plucks ripe areca nuts, a smart livestock management system, a community-owned machinery bank that enables small farmers to share modern agricultural equipment, smart storage system for areca nuts, and drone for precision pesticide spraying, among others.

Projects

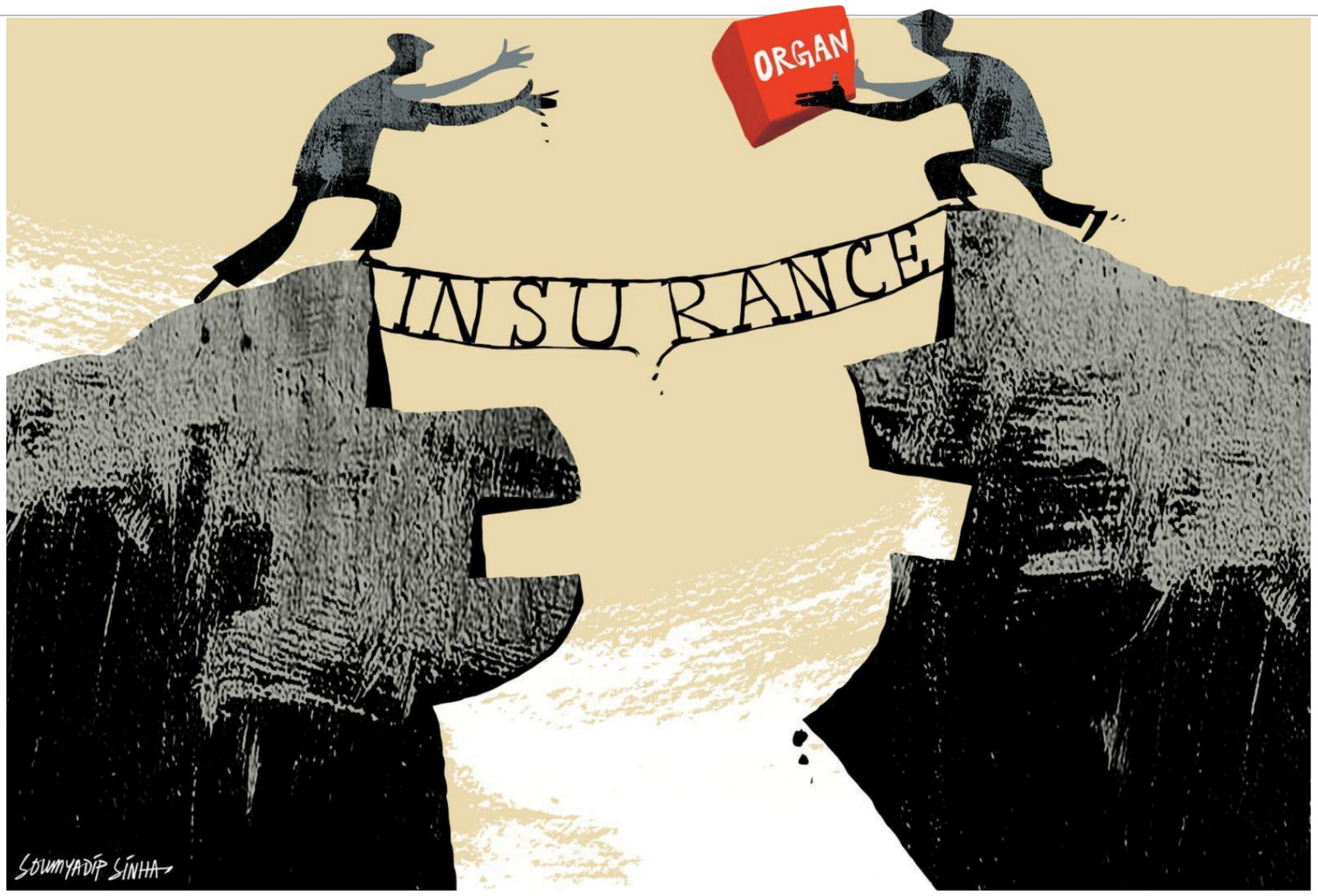
Projects also featured a rescue robot for high-precision operations in confined, hazardous spaces, a health-monitoring smart jacket, potable water from atmospheric moisture, an AI-enabled self-learning Braille device, smart nutraceutical solution developed from seaweeds, solar sun tracker and so on.

The New Age Innovation Network (NAIN) programme is a Government of Karnataka initiative under the Startup Policy 2025-2030, conceived with the idea of nurturing student innovators and promoting a culture of entrepreneurship within engineering institutions, particularly in tier-2 and tier-3 cities.

Students are encouraged to identify local challenges and develop frugal, technology-driven solutions, supported by mentorship in product development and entrepreneurial thinking.

Under this scheme, 50 new NAIN centres will be established in higher education institutions outside Bengaluru Urban, and each NAIN 2.0 centre is eligible for funding support of up to ₹5 lakh per student project, covering a maximum of 10 projects annually over a period of three years.

IIIT-B served as the anchor institute for six colleges, including Bapuji Institute of Engineering and Technology, Davangere, JAIN College (Deemed to be University), Ramanagara, Malnad College of Engineering, Hassan, College of Fisheries, Mangaluru, Mangalore Institute of Technology and Engineering, Moodbidri and St. Philomena College (Autonomous), Puttur. In the coming year, the Institute will anchor nine centres.



Running around in circles to secure insurance for transplantations

As India's burden of non-communicable diseases soars, the country is facing a widening gap between growing burden of organ failure and the limited financial protection available to patients; if organs are failing at a mass scale in India, care prior to a transplant, during a transplant and after a transplant needs to be recognised and prioritised

The Hindu Bureau

Fifty-two-year-old Ganesan (name changed) had been working in the U.S. when he underwent his first kidney transplant surgery in 2007. Ten years later, he had returned to Kerala, when it became evident that his transplant had failed. He went on dialysis again for five years, before registering under Mrithasanjeevani, the State government's deceased donor organ donation programme. Mr. Ganesan was lucky enough to receive a kidney from a deceased donor in 2023, and believed his years of struggle were finally at an end. That, however, was not the case.

"My ordeal actually began after the surgery when I sought reimbursement under my private insurance plan. My application was rejected several times despite multiple queries. I had to pursue my case relentlessly for months and go right up to the top management before the insurer finally agreed to pay the bills," he says.

As India's burden of non-communicable diseases soars, the country is facing a widening gap between the growing burden of organ failure and the limited financial protection available to patients requiring transplants, with insurance coverage remaining fragmented and inadequate, particularly for post-transplant care.

While some State governments have introduced schemes for high-cost procedures for patients who fall under a certain income threshold, coverage for patients outside of these income ceilings and for working populations is inconsistent. In the private sector, transplant costs are significantly higher, and insurance often excludes essential components of care. Recipients and organ donors, therefore, face staggering costs, delays and denials of claims if they are covered under insurance, as well as denial of coverage following a transplant or an organ donation.

Approximately 5,00,000 people in India need a transplant every year, but only a fraction of this number receives one. For recipients, expenses do not begin with a transplant surgery: most patients have been in and out of hospitals for years, on long-term medication and on procedures such as dialysis, all of which eat into finances. While the transplant surgery itself may be covered under insurance, pre-transplant expenses are often not. A study, 'Cost-benefit Analysis of Introducing Organ Transplant in the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana' published in the *Indian Journal of Transplantation* last year, noted "significant financial strain on patients", pointing to the direct and indirect costs of hospital visits and consultations prior to the procedure as one of many costs faced.

For donors, the situation is even more dire. Most donations in India are from living donors: as per the National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisation's annual report for 2023, of the over 16,000 donors that year, over 15,000 were living donors. Donor surgeries and health costs however, are often out of the ambit of insurance completely. "Screening expenses for the donor, as well as pre- and post-hospitalisation expenses for the organ donor are not covered by [private] insurance companies," points out Noble Gracious, executive director of the Kerala State Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisation. For families, where for instance, a wife is donating her kidney to her husband, this means that only a small portion of the many major expenses may be covered, if insurance is available, leaving the rest to be borne out-of-pocket.

After the surgery

"Organ transplants are among the most expensive of procedures," notes Paul Ramesh, senior consultant, heart and lung transplant surgeon, Kauvery Hospitals, Chennai. Even for uncomplicated cases, the costs are high. "If patients develop complications, not all insurance providers cover these costs, and patients have to pay out of their pockets."

Costs do not end at the hospital, however. Post-transplant care requires lifelong immunosuppression and regular follow-ups. Monthly medication costs can range from ₹10,000 to ₹15,000 or more, particularly in the initial months when the risk of rejection is highest.

For 63-year-old Naveen (name changed), a resident of Bengaluru, money worries are now an everyday reality. Following a kidney transplant in 2016, he struggles to meet the expenses of long-term follow-up care. "I spend nearly ₹15,000 every month for immunosuppression drugs. This is apart from regular investigations for follow-up care. My insurance plan does not cover any of this," he says.

"Most policies do not cover outpatient visits, long-term follow-up, or monitoring, all of which are critical after transplantation," says Sonal Asthana,

Recipients and organ donors face staggering costs, delays and denials of claims if they are covered under insurance, as well as denial of coverage following a transplant

lead consultant - hepato-pancreato-biliary and liver transplant surgery at Aster CMI Hospital, Bengaluru, adding that reimbursement caps and claim rejections further limit access.

For patients, if funds run out, adherence to medication protocols can become a challenge. Non-adherence to immunosuppressant medication in the post-transplant period resulting in the failure of the graft is all too common, doctors say. This is especially challenging in paediatric transplants, where the costs have to be borne for many years.

"Over time, because of financial constraints, medications and tests sometimes get disrupted. There have been several instances where the patient goes back to a critical state following graft rejection," points out Dr. Gracious.

Donors are even less financially protected in private insurance plans – placing them in a precarious position for any complication that arises from their surgery or any care required after their procedure. Rasleen Kaur, director at Policy Bazaar Health, says that provisions for donor expenses are available. "However, specifications of cover vary by insurer. Some plans cover donor complications, while other policies explicitly exclude donor screening, transportation of the organ, or any donor medical expenses incurred after the harvesting is complete."

Prasun Mitra, a cardiologist at Woodlands Hospital, Kolkata, points to another issue. "Many patients develop heart complications post organ transplant/donation, but then are not able to claim insurance for these ailments," he says.

Even when comprehensive insurance exists, there may be problems. "One major issue is newer advances in treatments. A person may have purchased a particular insurance with a particular coverage. When he/she needs treatment, if newer advances or newer biologics/drugs are available, they may not be able to access it," says Dr. Ramesh. Availing a fresh insurance policy after having undergone a transplant or having donated an organ is next to impossible.

Post transplant, the insurance coverage for recipients is often restricted, with exclusion clauses galore and is covered only on a case by case basis, say experts. Recipients are classified as 'high-risk individuals' because of their existing morbidities and even when they are offered insurance, the premium charged is high, said an insurance firm representative in Kerala.

People who have donated organs too find it tough to find health insurance, because their health profile also becomes "risky" post-donation. "There is limited understanding among insurers about the long-term health outcomes of living donors," Dr. Asthana notes.

Last year, says Viney Kirpal, a heart recipient, 42 transplant recipients, donors, and transplant doctors submitted a representation to the Insurance Regulation Development Authority of India (IRDAI), asking for clarification on a long-standing question: Are living organ donors and post-transplant recipients eligible for full, inclusive health-insurance coverage?

IRDAI responded noting that inclusion and protection for all categories of individuals, including organ donors and recipients under health insurance coverage was mandated.

"But when we shared the IRDAI clarification with insurance companies, they refused to comply," she says. A complaint that she had filed with the Ombudsman in Pune nearly a year ago is yet to be attended to, she says.

Several States including Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala that offer health insurance for families under a certain threshold of income now cover transplant surgeries. The Centre's flagship Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY provides limited, package-based coverage for some transplants, but coverage is more complete for kidney transplants than for many other organ transplants, which may require additional financial support. Tamil Nadu and Karnataka offer lifelong, free provision of immunosuppressive drugs to transplant patients, while Kerala offers it for the first year. While this has been a major boon to hundreds of patients who have undergone transplant surgeries and remain on medication, there are some gaps that need to be addressed say experts.

For one, a section of patients fall into the 'missing middle': their income does not allow them to qualify for State insurance schemes and they do not have the finances for private insurance.

For another, a large chunk of transplants takes place in private hospitals, and even if they are empanelled under State health insurance schemes, costs may overrun the insurance ceilings. Post-transplant care can take a hit when it comes to the private sector, notes Arpita Roy Chowdhury, a senior nephrology and renal specialist based in Kolkata. "In government hospitals the treatment is free, and so patients show up for follow-ups, but over 75% of organ transplants in India happen in the private sector. Follow-ups are a major issue there," she says.

What is needed

Insurance models are patchy and unevenly distributed across the country as far as government models go and with private models, leave patients to the mercy of insurance companies for reimbursement. Stories of being made to run pillar to post, obtain an endless number of documents and be subject to multiple checks, abound on social media. Data from IRDAI reveals that in FY25 health insurance claims rose 21.18%, but the total amount settled by insurers increased by only 12.88%.

The government's own body has recognised the burden of finances: at a recent national review meeting on organ transplantation activities, it was pointed out that the high cost of immunosuppressant drugs was a significant concern. It was strongly recommended that the lifelong cost of immunosuppressants for post-transplant recipients be comprehensively included under AB PM-JAY.

As Ms. Kirpal puts it: the stakes are high. "For transplant recipients, survival depends on lifelong essential diagnostics and medication – costs not affordable to most Indians and not covered by current policies. I believe India urgently needs a unified, state-supported model to ensure post-transplant care, similar to the frameworks used abroad."

Beyond insurance though, the core issue remains one of affordable, accessible healthcare for all. If organs are failing at a mass scale in India, care prior to a transplant, during a transplant and after a transplant need to be recognised and prioritised.

(With inputs from C. Maya in Kerala, Afshan Yasmeen in Karnataka, Serena Josephine M. and Athira Elssa Johnson in Tamil Nadu, Bindu Shajan Perappadan in Delhi and Shrabana Chatterjee in West Bengal, compiled by Zubeda Hamid.)
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RWF exceeds production targets across all categories

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rail Wheel Factory (RWF), Yelahanka, which manufactures cast wheels, forged axles, and wheelsets, on Thursday said during the financial year 2025-26, it exceeded production targets set by the Railway Board across all categories and achieved a performance by surpassing all previous production records across its core product segments – Wheels, Axles, and Wheelsets.

According to a RWF statement, wheel production reached an all-time high of 2,10,026 wheels, compared to 2,01,150 wheels in the previous year, registering a 4% growth.

Its axle production witnessed a surge, with output increasing to 1,22,000 axles, reflecting an impressive 30% growth over the previous year.

The company produced 1,20,100 wheelsets in the fiscal, up from 98,350 wheelsets in the previous year, marking a robust 22% growth.

The company said it has exceeded the production targets set by the Railway Board across all product categories.

'Despite challenges'

"Notably, these achievements were realised despite challenges such as disruptions in commercial fuel (gases) supply arising from geopolitical disturbances in West Asia,'' the firm said in a communique.

Bengaluru railway division of SWR records ₹2,420 cr. revenue in FY 2025-26

Officials say the division achieved an all-time high passenger revenue surpassing its previous best of ₹2,219.67 cr. and witnessed robust growth across sectors, including freight and parcel

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Division of the South Western Railway recorded an all-time high passenger revenue of ₹2,420.55 crore in the financial year 2025-26, surpassing its previous best of ₹2,219.67 crore, according to officials.

Divisional Railway Manager Ashutosh Kumar Singh, addressing a press conference at the divisional office on Thursday, said the division witnessed robust growth across sectors, including freight, parcel, catering and infrastructure development.

Apart from passenger earnings, goods revenue rose to ₹351.07 crore from ₹327.74 crore earlier, while parcel revenue increased to ₹140.31 crore. Catering services generated ₹17.37 crore, and ticket checking revenue reached a record ₹39.68 crore.

Apart from passenger earnings, goods revenue rose to ₹351.07 crore from ₹327.74 crore earlier. FILE PHOTO

Key highlights (2025–26)

Passenger revenue ₹2,420.55 cr.	Goods revenue ₹351.07 cr.	Freight loading 2.13 million tonnes
Parcel revenue ₹140.31 cr.	Rake loading 2,681	

Projects completed

Mr. Singh said that on the infrastructure front, several key projects were completed to enhance capacity and operational efficiency. "Doubling and electrification works were commissioned between Belandur Road and Carmelaram (3.522 km), and across the Makkajipalli-Nagasamudram-Dharmavaram section (28.6 km). A new 24-km railway line connecting Tumakuru, Urukere and Thimmarajanahalli was also completed," Mr. Singh said.

Within Bengaluru, the commissioning of the third and fourth lines between Bengaluru Cantonment and Baiyyappanahalli West over 4.92 km is expected to ease congestion and improve train movement.

Greater speed

Speed enhancements were undertaken across multiple routes. "Sectional speed was increased to 130 kmph on the Yelahanka-Dharmavaram stretch (161 km), while speeds were raised to 110 kmph on the Chikkaballapur-Chintamani and Baiyyappanahalli-Omalur sections covering 131 km. In addition, speeds of 106 trains were upgraded to reduce travel time," Mr. Singh added.

To improve connectivity, new services were introduced, including Vande Bharat trains between Bengaluru and Belagavi and Ernakulam.

An Amrit Bharat weekly service between SMVT Bengaluru and Alipurduar, along with express trains to Gwalior, Balurghat and Radhikapur, were also launched. A total of 18 train services were extended during the year.

Safety measures included the elimination of eight level crossings and the commissioning of four Road Over Bridges and 10 Road Under Bridges.

Freight operations showed steady growth, with loading increasing to 2.13 million tonnes from 2.07 million tonnes.

The division achieved its highest-ever rake loading of 2,681 rakes, a 20% rise. Container loading stood at 0.765 million tonnes, while POL loading registered a sharp 47% increase to 0.669 million tonnes, according to Mr. Singh.

Special trains

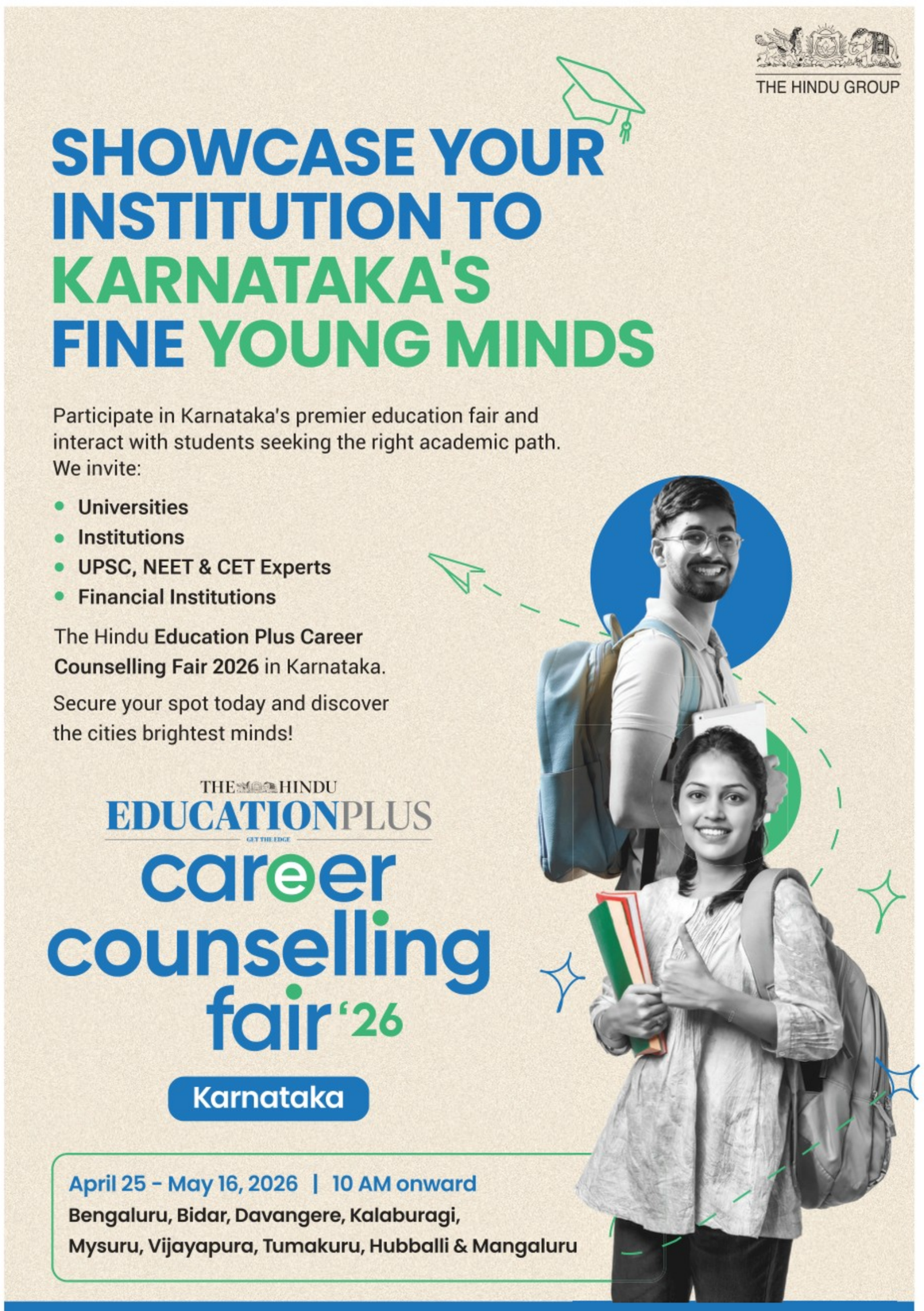
"To manage peak demand, 4,706 special train trips were operated and 5,220 extra coaches were added during the year. In enforcement actions against touts, 144 cases were registered, with 277 tickets seized and 144 persons arrested. Under social initiatives, 407 children and 27 adults in need of care were rescued and reunited with their families, Mr Singh said.

The division also achieved annual savings of ₹43.73 crore by converting 14 trains from diesel to electric traction.

2 GBA officials held in bribery case

BENGALURU The Lokayukta police on Thursday arrested two officials of the Greater Bengaluru Authority for allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹3 lakh. The accused officials have been identified as Venkatesh, Revenue Inspector at Geddalahalli in Thanisandra ward, and Srinivas, Tax Inspector of the same ward.

The accused demanded a bribe of ₹3 lakh to clear a pending khata work



Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Diesel to be produced in Cuba from second Russian oil shipment

1.8 in lakh barrels. Russia plans to send a second oil tanker to Cuba, the country's Energy Minister Sergei Tsivilyov said on Thursday. The announcement comes just two days after the sanctioned Russian tanker *Anatoly Kolodkin* docked at the Cuban port of Matanzas laden with 7.3 lakh barrels of oil, marking the first time in three months that an oil tanker reached the island. PTI

Number of deaths in Nepal's 2025 protest crackdown

76 At least 76 people were killed during the violent crackdown on anti-corruption protests in Nepal in September 2025, according to an inquiry commission report. The findings, based on interviews with over 200 people, said most victims died of gunshot wounds, with security forces accused of using "indiscriminate" force during the unrest that led to the fall of the government. AFP

Vijayawada division records highest-ever railway revenue

5,907 in ₹ crore. The Vijayawada Division of South Central Railway recorded its highest-ever gross revenue of ₹5,907.20 crore in FY26, along with record freight loading of over 40.6 million tonnes. Passenger revenue stood at ₹1,523.90 crore, with over 74.1 million passengers transported, officials said. PTI

Karnataka panchayats record-high tax collection in 2025-26

89 in per cent. Karnataka has achieved a milestone in grassroots governance, with 5,943 gram panchayats across the State recording higher tax collection and revenue realisation in 2025-26, Minister Priyank Kharge said. The Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj reported total tax collections of ₹1,382.57 crore in 2025-26. PTI

Amount IMF is to provide to Rwanda in reform programme

250 in $ million. Rwanda saw strong growth of 9.4% in 2025, but the Fund expects that number to slip to 6.8% this year as the war in West Asia "weighs on Rwanda's economic outlook." Alongside last year's growth, the country was also battling high inflation, which came in at 9.2% year-on-year. AFP

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Artemis II: what is at stake for U.S.?

The Artemis II mission sent a crew of four astronauts beyond low-earth orbit for the first time since 1972; it aims to prove the whole system works as designed and accelerate plans to land U.S. astronauts on the moon amid increasing competition from China

EXPLAINER

Vasudevan Mukunth

The NASA Artemis II mission launched in the early hours of April 2 (IST). The giant rocket ascended en route to sending a crew of four astronauts to near the moon for the first time in more than half a century. In so doing, it marked a milestone for the U.S. space programme. Its crew – commander Reid Wiseman, pilot Victor Glover, mission specialist Christina Koch, and Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen – are also the first humans to travel beyond low-earth orbit since Apollo 17 in 1972. Glover also became the first person of colour, Koch the first woman, and Hansen the first non-U.S. citizen to embark on a lunar trajectory.

The Artemis II mission uses the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and the crew capsule is called Orion. The SLS will propel Orion into a free-return trajectory around the far side of the moon, reaching around 7,500 km from the moon's surface before the earth's gravity pulls them back to splash down in the Pacific Ocean in a little over a week.

The mission does not plan to land on the moon. Instead, NASA is flying it to prove that the whole system – from the ground teams to the rocket and its crew – works as designed and the processes to land humans on the moon are ready.

Mission profile

After the SLS core stage is separated, the crew will spend 24 hours in a high orbit around the earth as it checks the capsule's life-support and environment systems. If they're all in order, they will fire Orion's trans-lunar injection burn. The crew will also test manual piloting and proximity operations, communications and navigation systems, and a high-speed data relay and collect data about physiological and biological responses of the human body to deep-space travel.

Once Orion has finished going around the moon, it will be pulled towards the earth by gravity. NASA engineers expect the capsule will enter the earth's atmosphere at a speed of around 40,000 km/hr. Its 5-metre-wide heat shield will endure temperatures as high as 5,000° C.

NASA will be collecting important data at this time because during the Artemis I mission in 2022, engineers found that Orion's heat shield was eroded during re-entry as gases trapped in the shield's material cracked it. In response, NASA used the same material but this time modified the re-entry trajectory so that Orion spends less time in the atmosphere as it descends.

Artemis overhaul

Artemis II will be the first test flight in the programme since NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman overhauled the programme's milestones earlier this year. In the older plan, the Artemis III mission was to land humans on the moon for the first time in the 21st century. In the new plan, however, Artemis III will launch a crewed Orion capsule to earth orbit to dock with prototype lunar landers designed by SpaceX and Blue Origin to ensure the technology works. Mr. Isaacman has said this mission is currently planned for 2027. NASA will actually land American astronauts on the moon in the Artemis IV mission, currently planned for 2028.

This is why SpaceX and Blue Origin recently announced that they would focus on their plans to help U.S. astronauts reach the moon in the near future.

The restructure also addressed a deeper operational problem. NASA flew the Artemis I test flight in late 2022 and Artemis II has now flown in 2026. This three-year gap included workforce attrition that could have resulted in loss of institutional memory, forcing parts of the mission to start afresh. So instead, NASA abandoned a plan to upgrade SLS for the Artemis II mission; instead, it flew with the same configuration that flew on Artemis I. NASA also said it will increase the launch frequency, with the additional mission in 2027, followed by at least one mission landing on the moon's surface from 2028 onwards.

NASA also cancelled the Lunar Gateway project to build a space station orbiting the moon, and reallocated its components to infrastructure that will eventually be installed on the moon's south pole.

The Chinese pressure

Mr. Isaacman wasn't only responding to technical challenges. A big reason for NASA to change its plans to return to the moon so drastically is China. As he put it: "... with credible competition from our greatest geopolitical adversary increasing by the day, we need to move faster, eliminate delays, and achieve our objectives."

China is set to conduct a test flight of its new Mengzhou crewed spacecraft this year. Its new and powerful Long March-10 rocket made its first low-altitude flight on February 11. The Lanyue lunar lander, which will carry astronauts from orbit to the surface, is expected to make its maiden flight between 2028 and 2029. As for robotic missions: the Chang'e 7 moon mission is also expected this year. It will explore the moon's south pole region for resources like water. The Chang'e 8 mission is expected around 2029: it will have technologies to use resources on the moon itself, like a 3D printer that will try to build structures using lunar soil.

Importantly, China also plans to land humans on the moon by 2030 and subsequently unfurl its 'International Lunar Research Station' in the 2030s.

As the U.S.-China rivalry continues to dig in on the earth, with the entrenched hegemon reluctant to cede dominance and the rising power determined to reshape the international order, the space race they're leading wouldn't be what it is if it weren't for a particular limited resource: water on the moon.

There are craters in the moon's south pole region that have been permanently shadowed. These areas have escaped the drastic temperature swings on the parts of the moon that are exposed to the sun (from 127° C during the day to -173° C at night). As a result, they are expected to contain water ice. The thinking goes: whichever country establishes infrastructure first in this area could corner these water ice deposits and shape the scientific and geopolitical rules for everything that follows.

But in 2025, former NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine told a Senate Commerce Committee hearing that without significant changes, it is highly unlikely the U.S. will beat China's projected timeline to land people on the moon.

If Artemis II and III go as planned and Artemis IV is able to lift off on time, U.S. astronauts could reach the moon's surface at least two years before China's mission. However, that depends on many things happening right on schedule – perhaps too many. Artemis I was delayed four times before it launched; Artemis II was delayed at least thrice. More broadly, whereas China has followed an incremental approach driven by the state, the U.S. has been following a commercial model with a large coalition: more than 50 countries (through the Artemis Accords) plus private companies like SpaceX and Blue Origin.

Success versus failure

The Artemis II mission will last 10 days. Assuming it succeeds on all counts (since it is a test flight), it will prove the SLS rocket and the Orion crew capsule work, encourage NASA's partners to focus on Artemis III, potentially galvanise political commitment to land U.S. astronauts on the moon before China does.

Delaying launches, especially those including a human crew, is par for the course in spaceflight because safety comes first. But that doesn't mean these decisions exist in a vacuum. If Artemis II had been delayed again, for example, public as well as institutional confidence in SLS and Orion could have eroded further. There could have been cascading complications for NASA's partners, including the European and Japanese space agencies.

A delay could also have prompted the U.S. government to revisit the question of whether the programme is too expensive. It has so far cost at least $93 billion and each new launch costs at least $2 billion. SpaceX also still has to demonstrate the in-orbit refuelling technology that lunar missions require.

If, however, Artemis II had failed (or fails in the latter part of the mission), the time-wise consequences range from a small but important delay if the failure is non-catastrophic to a delay of several years as the programme is halted altogether if the failure is catastrophic. It will also give reason for NASA's partners to consider whether they should suspend or possibly exit their involvement and for the U.S. government to consider a more panicked programme just to beat China to the moon.

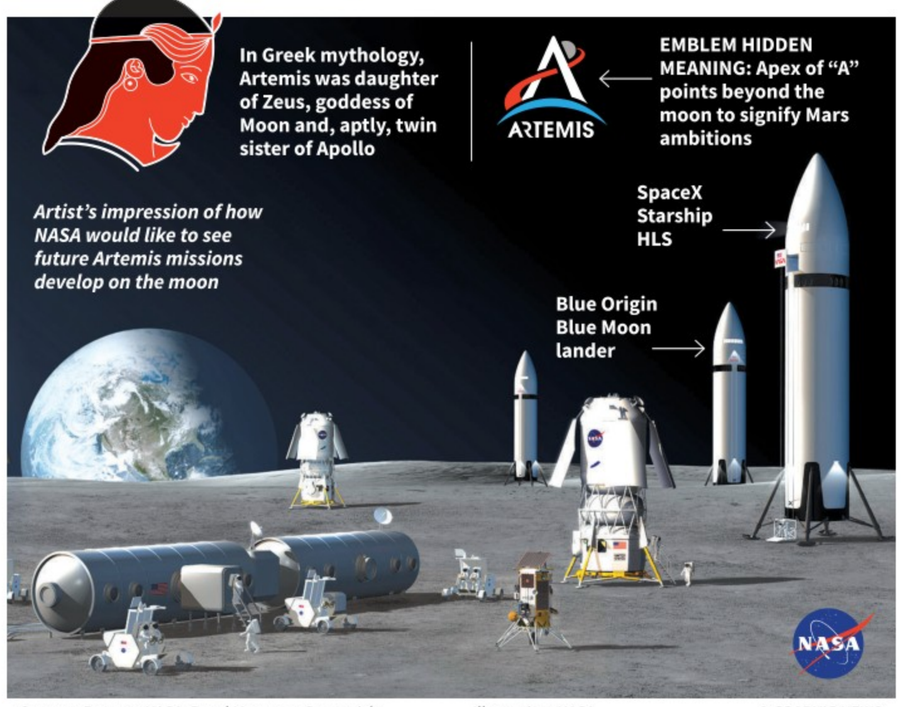
So as Artemis II launched, it did more than just send four people farther from the earth than any mission has in 54 years. It signalled that the U.S. is still in the race, against a China that has kept the U.S. anxious by almost always sticking to its schedule even as it thunders towards a crewed landing on the moon by 2030.

Artemis space programme

NASA's ambitious Artemis programme sees the U.S. endeavour to return humans to the moon's surface, as well as construct the first moonbase on our nearest celestial neighbour

WHERE WE ARE IN ARTEMIS MISSION TIMELINE

- **Nov 2022,** Artemis I: Uncrewed lunar orbit and return – first in increasingly complicated series of missions to ultimately enable human exploration of the moon
- **April 2026,** Artemis II: Approximately 10-day-long mission to send four astronauts on flyby of the moon – first such voyage since Apollo era missions in 1960s and 1970s
- **2027,** Artemis III: Crewed test in earth orbit of SpaceX's Starship Human Landing System (HLS) and Blue Origin's Blue Moon lander (see below)
- **2028,** Artemis IV: First Artemis crewed moon landing. After reaching lunar orbit, crew transfers from Orion to commercial lunar lander for their descent to surface
- **2028,** Artemis V: NASA expects to launch this lunar surface mission by end of year, to begin construction of moonbase – subsequent missions scheduled annually



Sources: Reuters, NASA, Royal Museums Greenwich Illustration: NASA © GRAPHIC NEWS

THE GIST

- The mission will spend 24 hours in high earth orbit to check the capsule's life-support and environment systems, followed by a trans-lunar injection burn and tests of manual piloting, communications and navigation systems.
- The capsule is expected to enter earth's atmosphere at around 40,000 km/hr, with its heat shield enduring temperatures as high as 5,000°C, as NASA collects important data after erosion issues in Artemis I.
- The Artemis programme was overhauled recently to reduce complexity, revise timelines, and increase the launch frequency to respond to competition from China.

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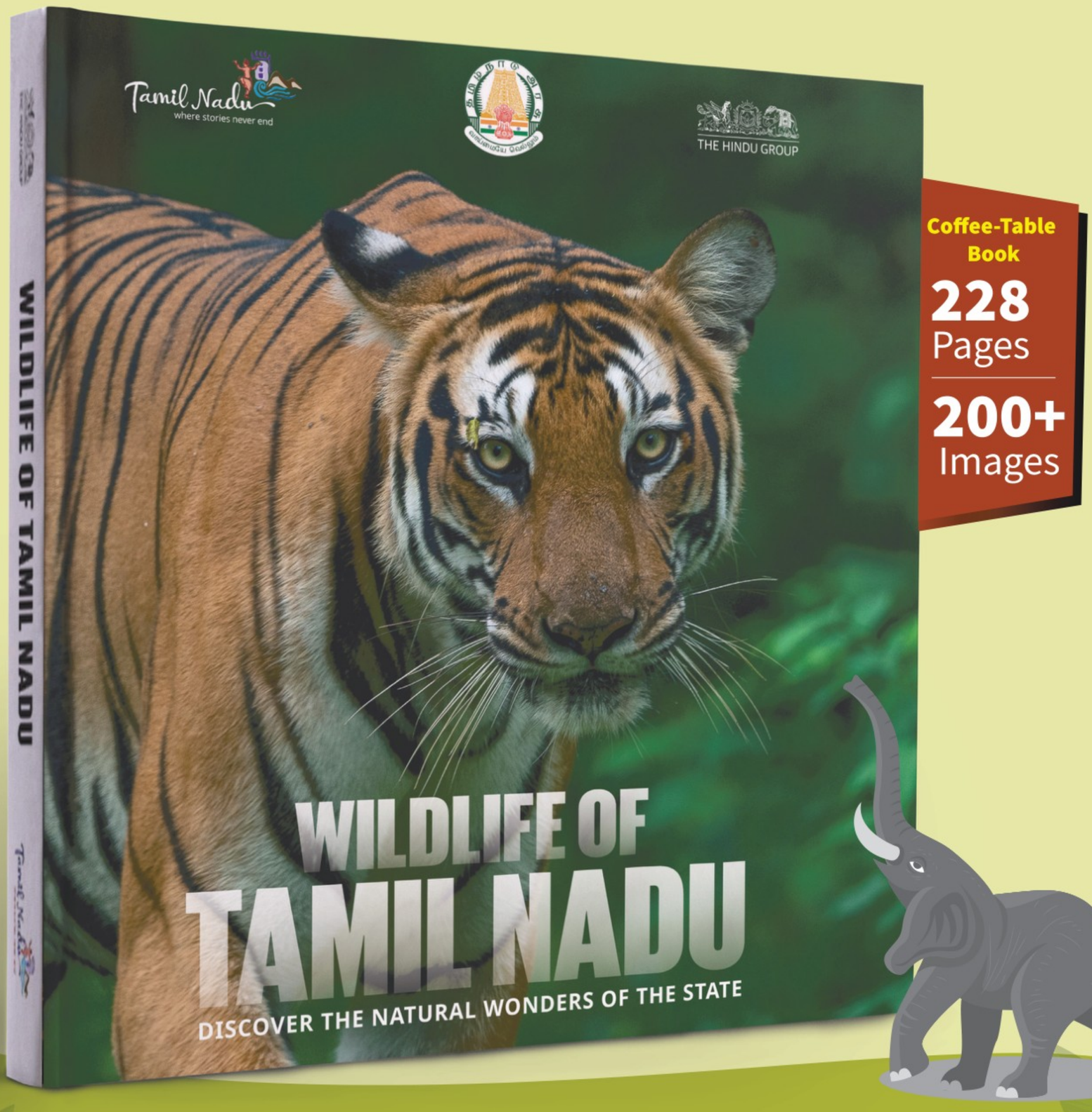

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Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground water Development, Division, Kashipur Circle, Shivamogga-577204.

Date:31.03.2026 CALL-1/CALL-2/CALL-3 IFT No.: 51/25-26

SECTION 1-INVITATION FOR TENDERS (KW-2/3/4)

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation &Ground water Development Division, Shivamogga invites tenders in Standard Bid Document KW-2/3/4 through kpp- procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka, viz.,http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from eligible contractors for the work of coming under M.I sub-division SHIMOGA amounting from Rs.40.10 lakhs to Rs.161.26 lakhs Period of downloading tender documents from e-procurement portal: From 31.03.2026 to 15.04.2026 upto 17:00 hrs. Tender opening date at 17:15 hrs on 16.04.2026. Any other details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days. Details published on the e-pro curement website @ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in are final.

Sd/- Executive Engineer M.I & G.W.D. Division, Shimoga.

DIPR/smg/KSMCA/26-27/05/04/09

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED

(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)

No: EE/ UTP /RNR/Seepage-Works/SD-3&5/ PB-2/2025-26/3231 Date: 31-03-2026.

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION-CALL-2
(Through KPPP portal system) Two cover system

Percentage tenders are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore, from eligible bidders who satisfies through GO KPPP plat form https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. The Canal Construction work under No.03 & No.05 Haveri sub division 03 number of Canal Works whose amount put to tender varies from Rs:494.75 Lakhs to Rs:497.95Lakhs (including GST) and EMD amount varies from Rs:6.29 Lakhs to Rs:6.33 Lakhsunder UTP Division Ranebennur under the Head of account UTP 4701for the year 2025-26.

Tender processing fee as per KPPP portal system is non refundable. The electronictender documents can be obtained through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. and can be submitted through KPPP portal. (1)The contractor can have access to e-tender documents from 02-04-2026 to 10-04-2026 up to 5.00 PM(2)ThePre-bid meeting to be scheduled on07-04-2026 up to 11.30AMat O/o Executive Engineer, KNNL UTP Division Ranebennur (3)The Last Date and time for tender queries before09-04-2026 up to 4.00 PM. (4) Last date of bid submission of completed e-tendering documents on 10-04-2026-up to 5.00 PM(5) Technical Bid will be opened on 13-04-2026at 5.30 PMat the office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, UTP Division, Ranebennur. Any changes made in the said Notification Corrected /Corrigendum's will be uploaded in the KPPP portal.

For details visit our website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in or contact the undersigned in all working days during the office hours. Phone No. (08373) – 297332 Conditional tenders are liable to be rejected. The officer competent to accept the tender reserves the right of cancelling/rejecting all or any of the tenders without assigning any reasons what so ever.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, U.T.P. Dn, Ranebennur.

22

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ನವನಗರ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

ಸಂ. ಹು.ಧಾ.ನ.ಪ್ರಾ/ಅವಿ/.ಟೆ.ನೋ.ನಂ.29/2025–26/03 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.04.2026

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ KW-3 ರನ್ವಯ a) (INDENT No 79) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಲೈಸನ್ಸ್ ಹೊಂದಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಮಯದೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

1) ಟೆಂಡರ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. **2)** ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **21.04.2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 16.00 ಘಂಟೆ. 3)** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **23.04.2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 16.00 ಘಂಟೆ. 4)** ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **28.04.2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 16.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ,** ಆಗದಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಗೊತ್ತುಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು, ಎಲ್ಲ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾದರಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ದಾಖಲೆ KW-3 ದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಅಭ್ಯಸಿಸಿ ಅರ್ಥೈಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಇಚ್ಚಿಸಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಏನಾದರೂ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ/ಸೇರ್ಪಡೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲನಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಯುಕ್ತರು,
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೫/ಧಾ/ದಿಶಾ/08/2026–27 ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ.

KARNATAKA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Tumkur Division, Karnataka, Telephone : 0816 2272479.

No.EE/KPWD/Tmk/AE-2/T.No.64/2025-26/ Dt. 31-03-2026

Term Invitation For Tender (IFT) KW-3&4
e-TENDER NOTIFICATION.

On behalf of Government of Karnataka, tenders are invited in **Two** cover system for Class-3 & above Contractors registered in PWD for 01 work under 5054-04-337-0-01-154 MDR Imrovements and 02 work under 5054-03-337-0-17-154 SH Improvements Head of account in the jurisdiction of Tumkur Division through KPPP- Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** The dates are published as below.

(Maximum amount put to Tender **Rs. 159.69 Lakhs** and Minimum amount put to Tender **Rs.79.84** Lakhs Maximun EMD Amount Rs. **2,39,546/-** and Minimum EMD Amount **Rs. 1,59,683/-**)

1	Last date for tender information enquiries	**13-04-2026: 17-30**
2	Last date for submission of tender.	**15-04-2026: 16-00**
3	Date of opening the Technical bid.	**16-04-2026 : 16-30**
4	Date of opening the Financial bid.	**17-04-2026 : 17-00**

Note: Turnover Certificate without UDI Number will not be considered, Hereafter any changes with reference to this Notification will be Notified in E-Portal Only

Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.W.D Division, Tumkur

DIPR/TUM/RO-03/26-27/Oysters

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD

3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board invite tender from the eligible Pre qualified contractors & willing to Pre qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned works.

Sl.No.	Name of the work
1	RIDF Tranch-31 for Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services Construction of Veterinary Dispensary/Hospital/Primary Veterinary Center at Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban & Chikkaballapura district. **Work Indent No. :** KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent 720/CALL-2 & IFT No: 164/2025-26 Date: 31.03.2026. **Amount put to tender:** Rs. 1,89,43,635/-
2	RIDF Tranch-31 for Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services Construction of Veterinary Dispensary/Hospital/Primary Veterinary Center at Gadag district. **Work Indent No. :** KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent 726/CALL-2 & IFT No: 170/2025-26 Date: 31.03.2026 **Amount put to tender:** Rs. 1,51,78,403/-

Last date for submission of bid: 08.04.2026 upto 4.00 PM

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511/080-22100077, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/37/AKAR/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಪಿರಿಯಾಪಟ್ಟಣ

ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ – 571107, ದೂ: 08223–273036
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: itstaff_ulb_periyapatna@yahoo.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಪಿಪುಸ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕಶಾಖೆ/ಜೆಇ2/ಟೆಂಡರ್–01/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.04.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ನಗರ ಭೂ ಸಾರಿಗೆ (DULT) ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಿರಿಯಾಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾದಚಾರಿ ಮಾರ್ಗ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ (ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–4) ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಯಂತೆ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ತಮಗೆ ಬೇಕಾದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡು ನಂತರ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ವಿವರ : 1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.05.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 04.00 ಗಂಟೆ. 2)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ (ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್) ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.05.2026ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ**

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT55663	492.40	413.14	6.20

ಸೂಚನೆ: ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ನೀಡುವ ಇತರೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳಿಗೆ ಬದ್ಧರಾಗಿರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
(ಕು.ಕಾವ್ಯರಾಣಿ ಕೆ.ವಿ. ಕೆ.ಎ.ಎಸ್.)
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಪಿರಿಯಾಪಟ್ಟಣ
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ಸಹಿ/–
(ಹೆಚ್.ಪಿ.ಮಧು)
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಪಿರಿಯಾಪಟ್ಟಣ

DIPR/MYS/02/SA/2026-27

Government of Karnataka

Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Division Ballari

Email: ee_pwdbellary@yahoo.com Telephone No: 08392 -266123

No: EE/PWD/BD/TS-1/2025-26/7202 Dated : 31-03-2026.

Short term Tender Notification (Two Cover Sysytem)

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division, Ballari invites the tenders for the works detailed in the table from the eligible contractors registered in Karnataka Public Works Department, through KPP- portal. Two cover tender procedure as per KTPP Act shall be followed. The tender documents can be downloaded through the web-site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ For any additional information the tenderers may contact the office of the undersigned during office working hours.**TABLE**

SI No	Details of Works	Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakhs)
1)	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT34489	150.00
2)	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT34300	100.00
3)	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT35028	300.00
4)	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT35028	260.00
5)	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT35025	100.00
6)	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT35240	300.00

Note : :Any changes either in tender dates or any other conditions, tenderers can view in KPP_Procurement Portal.

1)Last dates for queries (through KPP –portal): **07-04-2026 upto 12.00 Hours**

2)Last date for submission of tenders through KPP -portal: **10-04-2026 upto 16.00 Hours**

3)Date and time of opening of Technical Bids: **13-04-2026 at 16.30 Hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari.**

DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/11

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Ballari.

KARNATAKA URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE CORPORATION LTD.,

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

Nagarabhivruddi Bhavan, #22, 17th 'F' Cross, Old Madras Road, Indiranagar, 2nd Stage, Near BMTC Bus Depot, Bengaluru-560038. Ph No.: 080-25196124 | e-mail: info@kuidfc.com

No: KUIDFC/UWM/TEND/2026-27/01/23 Date: 02.04.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

KUIDFC invites tenders under NGT and SBM(U) – 2.0 fund for below mentioned project from the eligible Contractors. The tender document will be available on KPP portal of GoK (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender (Excl GST) Rs in Lakhs	Earnest Money Deposit Rs in Lakhs
1	"Construction of sewerage system in **Tarikere town**" under NGT and SBM (U)-2.0 fund in DBOT model – (**Call – 2**).	2795.84	28.00
2	Construction of Sewage Treatment Plants of 1.73 MLD in **Soraba, Jog Kargal Towns in Shivamogga Dist.** along with 5 years Operation & Maintenance (including 1-year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (U)-2.0 fund through Design, Built, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) model (Package: SBM_BLR_Pkg-5) – (**Call-2**)	539.81	9.00

Tender Publish Date: 04.04.2026. Pre-bid meeting Date & Time: **07.04.2026 at 11.30 AM.** Last Date & Time for Bid submission: **10.04.2026 upto 5.30 PM.** Date & Time of Opening of Technical bid: **13.04.2026 at 11.30 AM.** Date & Time of Opening of Financial bid: **24.04.2026 at 11.30 AM.** Interested bidders may view, download & upload the tenders only through KPP portal. Any further notification will be through KPP portal and KUIDFC official website only.

DIPR/CP/JA/30/2026-27

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Project Monitoring Unit, UWM-KUIDFC, Bengaluru.

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, (UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)

3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR MOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of movable properties by the Government under the provisions of the KPIDFE Act and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court, the Special Officer & Competent Authority is issuing notice for e-auction of the movable properties through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'

Description of items

FMCG Electricals, Shop Electronics, Security Electronics, Miscellaneous Electricals, Lighting, Telecommunications, Jewellery Machines, Office Seating – Chairs, Storage Furniture, Executive Seating – Sofa, Tables, Luxury Sofa and tea poy set-2, Computer & Peripherals, Miscellaneous, Gold Packing Materials-, Scrap items

Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
08th April 2026, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01	**08th April 2026, 11:00am to 01:00pm**	**15th April 2026 Before 5pm**	**18th April 2026 11 am to 1 pm**

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: **splocaeauction@gmail.com** or Contact Mob. No 9945515174 Or visit sploca.org.

Date: 01-04-2026
Place: Bengaluru DIPR/CP/21/Zen/2026-27

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
(Under KPIDFE –IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿಯಾ/ಕೆಕೆಆರ್‌ಡಿಬಿ/ತಾಸ–1/2026–27/01 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.04.2026

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ) KW-1,3 & 4

(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಹೆಸರು ಇಂಟೆಂಡ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: (1)ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಕಾಟಮಾನಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದಿಂದ ಯಮನೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದ ವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25131 Other (2) ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ತಂಗಡಗಿ ಅಡ್ಡ ದಾರಿಯಿಂದ ಗುಂಡಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಂಡಾದ ಕೂಡು ರಸ್ತೆ ವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25125 Other (3) ಸುರಪುರ ದೇವಾಪುರ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಕಂಪಾಪುರ ಜಾಕ್ ವೆಲ್ ವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಿ.ಡಿ. ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. (0.00 ದಿಂದ 1.25 ಕಿ.ಮೀ ವರೆಗೆ) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25166 Other (4) ಸುರಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಏವೂರ ದೊಡ್ಡತಾಂಡಾದ ಸರಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ 04 ಕೋಣೆಗಳು ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. (UDISE Code: 2933082201) ಸುರಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಏವೂರ ದೊಡ್ಡತಾಂಡಾದ ಸರಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ 04 ಕೋಣೆಗಳು ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. (UDISE Code:2933082201)RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT 23590/CALL-2 Other (5) ಸುರಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಬಾದ್ಯಾಪುರ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಬಾದ್ಯಾಪುರ ದೊಡ್ಡಿಯ ರಸ್ತೆಗೆ ಸಿ.ಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT23814/CALL-2 Other (6) ಹುಣಸಗಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಜಂಗಿನಗಡ್ಡಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿ–02 ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT25129 Other **2)ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ:** 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಕೆ.ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಡಿ.ಬಿ. ಯೋಜನೆ **3) ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 9.00 ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 118.00 ಲಕ್ಷ **4) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ :** 4ನೇ ಹಾಗೂ 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು **5) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 06.04.2026 ರಿಂದ 15.04.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **6) ಟೆಂಡರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ (ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲಾ) **7) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 15.04.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **8) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್ (ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ– 3 & 4):** 17.04.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **9) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್ (ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ– 1):** 17.04.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **10) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್ (ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ– 3 &4):** 24.04.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **11) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಳಾಸ (ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ):** ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ಸೂಚನೆ:– ಟೆಂಡರರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು (ರಜಾದಿನಗಳು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ).

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/08/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ&ಎ/2026–27 ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Govt. of Karnakata Undertaking)

9th & 10th Floor, Visweswaraiah Mini Tower, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengalore- 560 001.
Ph: 080-22868870, 22867097, 22865192, E-mail:mdadcl2011@gmail.com

No.ADCL:P&A-e-64553:2026-27 Date: 02.04.2026

NOTIFICATION

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Development Corporation Ltd. Invites applications for the post of **01 Legal Advisor and 01 Company Secretary on Outsource/Honorarium Basis for the period of 02 years** from the ellgible candidates. The candidates should have the below mentioned Educational and Experience criteria. The details are

Sl.No.	Particulars	Legal Advisor	Company Secretary
1	**Education:**	LLB from the recognised University	Should have Passed Company Secretary Course recgnized by the Institute of Company Secretary of Indian (ICSI) and should be a member of Institute of Company Secretaries of India.
2	**Experience:**	Should have worked as District and Sessions Judge and (Minimum 02 years of Experince as Legal Advisor in any Department / Board / Corporation of Government of Karnataka) Preference will be given for those who have minimum 02 years of experience working as Legal Advisor in any Department / Board / Corporation after retirement.	Should have minimum 05 years of Experience as Company Secretary in any Department / Board / Corporation of Government of Karnataka. Preference will be given for those who have worked for a minimum of 05 years as a practicing Company Secreatry (PCS) in Social Welfare Department's Corporation.
3	**Salary / Remuneration**	Candidates to give their expected salary.	Candidates to give their expected salary.
4	**Working Place**	Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Development Corporation Ltd, 9th & 10th Floor, VV Tower, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-560001.	Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Development Corporation Ltd, 9th & 10th Floor, VV Tower, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-560001.
5	**Scope of Work**	All Legal and Court Matters pertaining to Dr B. R. Ambedkar Development Corporation at High Court, KAT, Court Case Management System (CCMS) and Other Courts and also to give Legal Opinion in Court Cases & Other Cases.	All Compliance with the Provisions of Companies Act-2013 as applicable to our Corporation.
6	**Working Hours**	Should be Present during office Hours.	Should be Present during office Hours. (Exemptions could be given)
7	**Age**	Maximum 80 Years	Minimum 35 Years

As explained above, the interested ellgible Candidates can submit their Resume along with self attested above said required documents in physical form **on or before 21.04.2026** to Managing Director, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Development Corporation Ltd. 9th and 10th Floor, VV Tower, Bangalore-560001.

DIPR/CP/JA/38/2026-27

Sd/-
Managing Director

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

MY DAUGHTER G.THANISHKA,born on 1st February 2016(District of birth: Namakkal), residing at N0.108, sai pride Apartment, daddy's garden,glass factory layout, kammasandra village, electronic City, Bangalore–560100.shall hence forth be known as ADIRA G A., K . GOWRISANKAR (father)

I, S Pavan Kumar R/o 2-6, Kattakindapalli, Dampetla Post, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh 515661 have changed my minor daughter's name from S Moksha to Sake Aadhya Ananda.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAVIKIRAN T S/O Thimmaiah R/O Nelli Gudda Road, Hirehalli Bidadi Hobli, Ganakallu, P.O. Ganakal, Dist. Ramanagar (Karnataka) – 562109 have changed the name of my minor daughter Hitha Ravikiran aged 1 year and she shall hereafter be known as HARSHIKA RAVIKIRAN.

I, IRFAN Ali Mirza Akthar S/o Akthar Ali Ibrahim residing No. 10E/3, Samhitha Spice Wood East Block, 6th Main, G M Palya, New Thippasandra, Bengaluru-560075 have changed my name to Irfan Ali vide affidavit dated 02/04/2026 before Meer Hassan Notary Bengaluru.

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KEYWORD

GETTY IMAGES

From family empires to corporate giants in South Korea and Japan

South Korea's chaebols and Japan's zaibatsu-keiretsu structures played a key role in economic growth, shaping both countries into modern industrial powerhouses; while chaebols remain family-controlled and dominant, Japan's zaibatsu were dissolved and evolved into keiretsu

Arvind Prasanna A.

Among the many forces that have shaped human civilisation, trade and commerce hold a special place. Over time, they have taken on different forms, and it is no exaggeration to say that they have been one of the chief driving forces of society as a whole.

In the far east, South Korea and Japan stand out as modern industrial powerhouses. Both have had their very own brand of similar yet dissimilar business structures.

Korean model

In South Korea, this structure takes the form of chaebol – large, family-controlled multinational conglomerates. While entrepreneurial activity existed in the country as early as the 1950s, chaebols truly rose to prominence in 1961 under President Park Chung Hee. After coming to power, he enacted policies that fuelled the country's recovery after the Korean War (1950-53). This phase of rapid economic growth came to be known as the 'Miracle on the Han River'.

Today, chaebols benefit from guaranteed loans, subsidies, and tax incentives from the government. They account for over half of the country's exports and attract a significant share of foreign capital. Interestingly, founding families may not always be the majority stakeholders across all affiliated companies.

Major players such as Samsung, SK Group, Hyundai, and LG Group are central to this system. According to data, Samsung alone represents over 20% of South Korea's GDP.

However, this power comes with risks. A longstanding criticism of the chaebol structure has been its negative effect on local small and medium businesses and the prioritisation of overseas expansion over domestic growth. The major problem with chaebols and their dominance is that any major failure could have far-reaching consequences for the national economy. There have also been numerous corruption allegations against chaebols over the years, including the 2017 conviction of Samsung chairman Lee Jae-yong on charges of bribery and embezzlement, before his pardon in 2022. According to reports, these charges were filed during the course of the investigation into former South Korean President Park Geun-hye.

Japanese shift

Meanwhile, Japan's trajectory offers a striking contrast. Its early conglomerates, known as zaibatsu, emerged after the Meiji Restoration in 1868. Like chaebols, they were family-controlled business empires.

A key difference, however, is that while chaebols are still active, zaibatsu as a system ceased to exist after World War II, when the U.S. moved to dissolve them. Among these conglomerates, four reigned at the top – Sumitomo, Mitsui, Mitsubishi, and Yasuda – collectively known as the *Yondai Zaibatsu* or the 'Big Four'. Although all four exist today in altered forms, only three retain their original names; Yasuda was eventually reorganised into a keiretsu known as the Fuyo Group.

In many ways, keiretsu are what the zaibatsu morphed into. They have a more corporate-oriented hierarchy with professional management rather than direct family control. Keiretsu played a central role in Japan's economic expansion in the latter half of the 20th century. The Sumitomo Group, for instance, is one of the biggest keiretsu. Nippon Steel, one of its key firms, partnered with Luxembourg-based ArcelorMittal to form ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India). Likewise, Mitsubishi is a very common brand name, recognised across sectors, from automobiles to consumer products.

Corporate voice

Any discussion of Japan's corporate landscape would be incomplete without the Japanese Business Federation, commonly known as Keidanren. It is a comprehensive economic organisation founded in 2002 through the merger of Keidanren (Japan Federation of Economic Organisations) and Nikkeiren (Japan Federation of Employers' Associations).

According to Keidanren's official website, as of April 1, 2025, Keidanren's membership stood at 1,758. Since May 2025, it has been chaired by Yoshinobu Tsutsui of Nippon Life Insurance. The Keidanren has possessed considerable lobbying powers, maintaining strong ties with Japan's Liberal Democratic Party and making significant donations.

However, ahead of the 2009 election in the country, one of the Democratic Party of Japan's campaigns was to ban political funding from companies and organisations. Following its victory, Keidanren stopped making political donations.

While its influence may have diminished in recent years, amid calls for stricter delineation between political and corporate entities and amendments to Japan's Political Funds Control Act, Keidanren remains a prominent voice for big business in the country.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

As NASA's Artemis II mission launches the first crewed lunar flyby in over 50 years, here is a quiz on humanity's tryst with the moon

Mohammed Hidhayat

QUESTION 1
What was the informal name for the Cold War competition between the USA and USSR for spaceflight supremacy?

QUESTION 2
Name the first spacecraft to orbit the moon, which was achieved on this day (April 3) in 1966.

QUESTION 3
What was the name of the lander in India's Chandrayaan-2 lunar mission, and who was it named after?

QUESTION 4
Project A119 was a secret U.S. Air Force plan from the late 1950s. What did it propose? a). develop a space elevator to transport materials; b). detonate a nuclear bomb on the moon; c). terraform the moon for human habitation.

QUESTION 5
Which animal became the first to orbit earth?

QUESTION 6
Which country made the first-ever soft landing on the moon's far side? Name the mission as well.

QUESTION 7
Which term originates from the moon's perceived influence on human behaviour?

QUESTION 8
Famed singer David Bowie's 'Space Oddity' was released in 1969, the same year as which NASA expedition? What was historic about the mission?

Visual question:
This iconic frame from an early science fiction film shows a capsule landing on the moon. Name the silent film released in 1902. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The Abiemnom massacre took place in Abiemnom on March 1. Abiemnom is a part of which country? **Ans: South Sudan**
2. Identify this country: This is an island in the Eastern Basin of the Mediterranean Sea. **Ans: Cyprus**
3. The Rastriya Swatantra Party wins 124 direct seats and leads in one more from 164 of 165 constituencies reported so far in Nepal, in results announced on March 8. Who eventually took oath as the PM? **Ans: Balendra Shah**
4. India, on March 8, won the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup, beating New Zealand by 96 runs in the final. Apart from becoming the first team to win back-to-back T20 World Cups, and the first team to win the tournament three times, which other milestone did the team cross? **Ans: The team is the first to win the title at home as hosts**
5. Which country experienced frequent blackouts in March? **Ans: Cuba**
6. Who on March 29 became the youngest driver to lead the World Championship? **Ans: Kimi Antonelli**
Visual: Identify this musician who won the Academy Award for Best Original Score. **Ans: Ludwig Göransson**
Early Birds: Tamal Biswas | Suchit Narottam | Dodo Jayaditya | Pulkit Sathe | Arun Kumar Singh

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

Which of the following sentences is correct? If anyone calls, tell him to call back. If anyone calls, tell them to call back. If anyone calls, tell him/her to call back. (R. Sivasamban, Tambaram)
I know I am sticking my neck out by saying this, but all three sentences seem ok. People generally have no problem accepting the first sentence, but regarding the other two, they have strong opinions. The second sentence usually generates a lot of heated arguments. People who love grammar argue that words like "anyone", "someone", and "somebody" should be followed by the singular pronoun "him" and not the plural "them". They have a point. But the question is why should the pronoun be "him" and not "her"? The caller after all, could be a woman. So, why not say, "If somebody calls, tell her to call back"? The traditional rule in English is that if the sex of the individual is uncertain, the masculine pronoun "him" should be used. But things have changed. It is no longer considered politically correct to use the masculine pronoun "him" to include women. This is the age of equal rights and people definitely don't want to sound sexist. To overcome this problem, many native speakers – though not all – use the plural "them", and "they", instead of "him" to refer back to an indefinite pronoun like "someone", "somebody", or "anyone".

Why is police interrogation called the "third degree"? (Keshava Reddy, Hyderabad)
Whenever we hear the expression "third degree", several images immediately come to mind – bright lights, smoke-filled room, lathi blows, victims screaming or policemen barking questions. I guess I have been watching too many Hollywood and Bollywood movies! The "third degree" is actually an expression that was first used in Freemasonry. A Freemason was a member of a worldwide secret society and his job was to help other members of the society become successful. The highest rank in this secret society was Master Mason, also called "Third Degree". In order to become a "Third Degree", one had to be questioned by the society members. It is believed that these sessions usually lasted for a long time and were very intensive in nature. Whether this was true or not, it became fixed in the public's mind that the Third Degree was something of an ordeal; that it was brutal. Later, this term began to be applied to police interrogations. Nowadays, any sort of lengthy interrogation is called "third degree". So, when your parents/teachers/superiors grill you about something that you have done or not done, you can call it a "third degree".

What is the meaning of "goggle box"? (Abdul Jabbar, Vikarabad, Andhra Pradesh)
When you "goggle" at something or someone, you stare at it/him with your eyes wide open. The "o" in the first syllable is like the "o" in words like "hot", "pot", and "lot".

And what is the "box" that many people keep staring at these days? The television, of course. And that's what a goggle box is! It's television. The word is used in very informal contexts. Another expression, which is frequently used to refer to the television, is the "idiot box".
Published in The Hindu on March 7, 2000

Word of the day

Extol:
praise, glorify, or honour

Synonyms: laud, worship, commend

Usage: *People often extol their favourite leaders.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/extol

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪkstəʊl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Acute shortage of auto LPG hits autorickshaw services in city

The shortage, due to the ongoing conflict in West Asia that disrupted fuel logistics, has severely impacted thousands of autorickshaw drivers who depend on LPG as a cost-effective alternative to conventional fuels

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru witnessed widespread disruption in auto services on Thursday, hit by an acute shortage of auto LPG. Long queues of autos stretching for kilometres outside fuel stations were a common sight, with drivers waiting for hours amid uncertainty over supply.

The shortage, due to the ongoing conflict in West Asia that disrupted fuel logistics, has severely impacted thousands of autorickshaw drivers who depend on LPG as a cost-effective alternative to conventional fuels.

At several fuel stations visited across different parts of the city by *The Hindu* on Thursday, autorickshaws were seen lined up in serpentine queues, with many drivers forced to park indefinitely as tankers failed to arrive on time. In some locations, drivers were supplied only limited quantities of LPG, far short of a full tank, further making difficulties for them.

Autorickshaws line up for LPG refuelling at a BP LPG station on Mysuru Road as the city faces a gas shortage linked to the ongoing West Asia crisis. Drivers in Bengaluru waited for more than three hours to refill their vehicles on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Law and order concern

The situation also led to law and order concerns in a few areas.Personnel from the Hoysala police were deployed at a few fuel stations to manage crowds and prevent escalation, as frustrated drivers staged protests demanding immediate restoration of supply. In several instances, the long queues spilled onto main roads, causing traffic congestion and requiring additional deployment of traffic police.

Many drivers, left with empty tanks, were seen pushing their vehicles as the queues inched forward. Suresh Kumar, an autorickshaw driver from Bilekahalli, said that he had been stranded in a queue nearly three kilometres long since early morning.

"I came here around 7 a.m. when my fuel was almost exhausted. The queue was already very long. I can't even drive back home now. Many of us have no option but to wait. Some drivers without any fuel are pushing their autos as the line moves," he said.

Prakash R., another driver waiting near Dairy Circle, described the situation as worsening by the day. "The gas I managed to get is not even a full tank. It will hardly last for three rides. Half the day is wasted just waiting in queues," he said, adding that earnings have taken a severe hit.

60% affected

According to Rudramurthy, general secretary of the Auto Rickshaw Drivers' Union (ARDU), the shortage has already affected nearly 60% of the city's autorickshaws.

"If this continues for another day, many autos may stop plying altogether. The government must intervene immediately to resolve the issue," he warned.

Several passengers on Thursday already reported difficulty in booking rides through aggregator apps, even during non-peak hours.

Meenakshi S., a resident of Banashankari, said she was unable to find an autorickshaw for her commute to M.G. Road. "Usually, I get an auto within a minute during non-peak hours. Today, I waited a long time. When I finally got one, the driver explained the shortage issues they are facing and said they are very worried," she said.

Don't overcharge, Muniyappa tells private LPG firms

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid long queues of autorickshaws outside LPG stations in Bengaluru, Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa on Thursday urged private oil companies to sell auto LPG at rates comparable to public sector outlets.

The Minister said that higher prices charged by private fuel companies have pushed autorickshaw drivers towards government-run stations, resulting in overcrowding and delays. "Around 3,000 auto LPG cylinders are consumed daily, and these are currently being supplied by government outlets," he added.

Mr. Muniyappa explained that many drivers who usually rely on private suppliers are now shifting to public sector stations due to the price difference, causing the surge in queues. However, those who regularly depend on government outlets have not faced major disruptions.

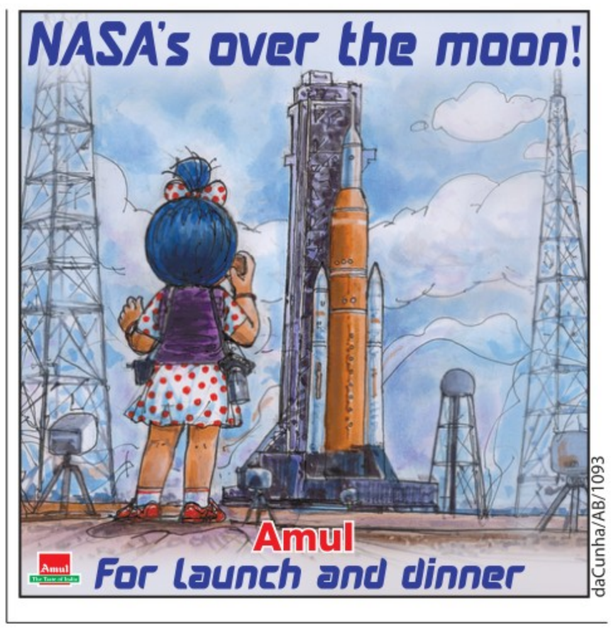
He warned private companies against overpricing and directed them to match government rates to avoid inconvenience to the public. He also appealed to the Centre to step in and regulate private LPG suppliers.

Indian Oil scales up auto LPG services

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Indian Oil Corporation Limited has announced that it has "significantly scaled up" its auto LPG supplies across Karnataka in response to the surge in demand, particularly following the closure or partial shutdown of several private Auto LPG outlets in Bengaluru and other parts of the State. Indian Oil is currently meeting the fuel requirements of autorickshaws and LPG-driven cars through its network of 55 Auto LPG Dispensing Stations (ALDS) spread across Karnataka. With over 300 outlets operated by private players reportedly closed or partially operational, a substantial portion of the demand has shifted to Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) outlets, the oil PSU said on Thursday.

Despite the increased operational load on its infrastructure, Indian Oil has made concerted efforts to ensure uninterrupted supply and efficient service delivery to LPG-powered vehicles during this challenging period, it claimed. The average daily sales at Indian Oil's ALDS in Karnataka have risen sharply to 59.53 metric tonnes (MT), compared to the previous three-month average of 43.4 MT, reflecting an increase in consumer demand, as per a communique issued by V Vetriselvakkumar, Chief General Manager (Corporate Communications), Indian Oil, Southern Regional Office.



Metro services extended till 2 a.m. for IPL match

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In view of the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) T20 match scheduled in Bengaluru on April 5, Sunday, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has announced an extension of metro services to facilitate late-night travel for cricket fans and commuters.

According to a press release by BMRCL, metro operations from all terminal stations, which typically conclude around 11 p.m., will be extended until 2 a.m. in the early hours of April 6.

As per the revised schedule, the last trains will depart from Whitefield (Kadugodi) and Bommasandra at 12.30 a.m., while services from Challaghatta, Silk Institute, and Madavara will run until 12.45 a.m. Notably, the final train from Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Station (Majestic), the city's central interchange, will leave at 1.30 a.m. towards all four directions. Additionally, a late service from R.V. Road will operate until 2 a.m. To streamline travel, BMRCL has integrated a QR code for two-way metro journeys within digital IPL match tickets. This is expected to reduce ticketing queues and enable smoother passenger movement on match day, according to the release.

Spectators have been advised to use Cubbon Park and M.G. Road metro stations, depending on their stadium entry points. Those accessing the stadium via Cubbon Road are encouraged to use Cubbon Park station, while those entering from the Link Road side should opt for the M.G. Road station, both located within walking distance of the venue.

BMRCL has urged commuters to follow directions issued by authorities to ensure smooth movement. FILE PHOTO

In a bid to ease traffic congestion in the Central Business District (CBD), BMRCL has also arranged additional parking facilities across 44 metro stations. A flat parking fee of ₹30 for two-wheelers and ₹60 for cars will be applicable for the entire duration of metro operations on match day.

BMRCL has urged commuters to follow directions issued by police personnel, stadium authorities, and metro staff to ensure smooth movement and avoid overcrowding. BMRCL also stated that it reserves the right to regulate or temporarily close station entry points if required.

Health mix racket uncovered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Tumakuru District Police have arrested a Delhi-based man and booked his associates for allegedly manufacturing and selling a duplicate health powder of the brand "Jeeni Slim Powder" using fake labels and containers.

Rajeev Khanna, 56, was apprehended in Delhi on March 28. The accused were selling the products online under the name "RK Traders".

They were manufacturing the products without any approvals from regulatory authorities.

Woman, 11-month-old son found dead in Chandra Layout

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 29-year-old woman and her 11-month-old son were found dead under suspicious circumstances at their residence in Byraveshwarnagar near Nagarbhavi on Wednesday.

In a complaint submitted by Mahantesh Wali, a 32-year-old engineer employed at a private firm in Peenya, he stated that he departed for work around 9 a.m. on April 1, leaving his wife, Pratibha Wali, and their infant son at home. Pratibha, who worked for a private company near Silk Board, was currently working from home.

When Mahantesh returned around 6.30 p.m., he found the door locked from the inside. He then accessed the house using a spare key kept near the window. Upon entering, he found that his wife had ended her life. Their infant son was found lying unresponsive on the bed.

A purported note recovered from the scene, stated that the child had accidentally fallen into water and died, and that she was unable to save him.

Case registered

Based on the complaint, an unnatural death report has been registered at the Chandra Layout Police Station. The bodies have been sent for postmortem, and further investigation is under way to ascertain the exact cause of the incident.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN at 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help.)

FIR registered over alleged encroachment of police quarters land in Malleswaram

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An FIR has been registered at the Malleswaram Police Station after a major land grab attempt by a gang led by a woman and her five associates, involving a property belonging to the police department, came to light. The property, estimated to be worth around ₹80 crore, was allegedly targeted by the accused in collusion with officials.

The complaint was filed by M. Kumar, Lokayukta Inspector of Bengaluru South district. Based on his complaint, the police have booked M.R. Mahalakshmi, Krishnamurthy, Srinath Naragadde, and officials from the civic body and Bescom. An investigation is currently under way. According to the complaint, the land in question has over 100 years of history and is officially recorded as police quarters in a survey map dating back to 1913.

At present, families of four inspectors and other police personnel are residing on the property. The issue surfaced when Inspector Kumar noticed that a recent electricity bill issued to his residence carried the name of a private individual, Mahalakshmi, instead of the police department. Suspicious, he approached Bescom, the local civic body and the sub-registrar's office for clarification.

During the inquiry, it was allegedly found that property records had been illegally transferred. Further probe revealed that an e-Khata had been fraudulently created through civic body records, and even a sale agreement had been executed in favour of Krishnamurthy.

In a disturbing development, the complaint also states that on March 9, a group of individuals visited the police quarters and threatened the residents. They allegedly claimed ownership of the land and warned the families to vacate immediately. The accused reportedly threatened to throw out their belongings and issued death threats if the occupants failed to comply.

The complainant has alleged that, despite knowing that the land belonged to the police department, the accused conspired with officials to illegally occupy the property without informing the department.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, APR. 03
RISE 06:15 SET 18:31
RISE 19:37 SET 06:46

SATURDAY, APR. 04
RISE 06:14 SET 18:31
RISE 20:27 SET 07:25

SUNDAY, APR. 05
RISE 06:13 SET 18:31
RISE 21:18 SET 08:06

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	34	21
Bengaluru	33	22

Bengaluru Today
33°C The weather will be day. Day will be warm. Night will be slight cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Dry weather to occur.

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THE HINDU
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FORM NO. CAA. 2
[Pursuant to Section 230(3) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rules 6 and 7 of the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements, and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016]
IN THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, KOCHI BENCH
CA(CAA)/03/(KOB)/2026
IN THE MATTER OF SECTIONS 230 TO 232 AND OTHER APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013 READ WITH THE COMPANIES (COMPROMISES, ARRANGEMENTS AND AMALGAMATIONS) RULES, 2016 AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE SCHEME OF ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN KALYAN SILKS TRICHUR PRIVATE LIMITED AND KALYAN SILKS PRIVATE LIMITED AND THEIR RESPECTIVE SHAREHOLDERS AND CREDITORS ("SCHEME")

Kalyan Silks Trichur Private Limited, a company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956, having corporate identity number U51311KL2001PTC014624 and its registered office at 4/621/2 Kuriachira P.O., Thrissur – 680 006, Kerala, India.	... Applicant Company 1 / Demerged Company

ADVERTISEMENT OF NOTICE OF THE MEETING OF THE UNSECURED CREDITORS OF KALYAN SILKS TRICHUR PRIVATE LIMITED

NOTICE is hereby given that by order dated 09 March 2026 as modified by order dated 23 March 2026 (collectively "Tribunal Order"), Kochi Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal ("Tribunal") has directed the meeting to be held of the unsecured creditors of the Demerged Company, for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, approving with or without modification(s), the proposed Scheme of Arrangement between Kalyan Silks Trichur Private Limited ("Demerged Company" or "Company") and Kalyan Silks Private Limited ("Resulting Company") and their respective shareholders and creditors ("Scheme") under Sections 230 to 232 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 ("Act") and the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016 ("CAA Rules").

Further notice is hereby given that meeting of the unsecured creditors of the Demerged Company will be held in a hybrid manner with the physical meeting at the registered office of the Demerged Company and through video conferencing ("VC") / other audio visual ("OAVM") on Tuesday, 05 May 2026, at 10:00 AM (IST) ("Meeting")

In terms of the Tribunal Order, the individual notices of the Meeting together with the accompanying documents have been sent through physical and/or electronic modes to the registered addresses of the unsecured creditors as per the records available with the Demerged Company. The Unsecured Creditors may note that the notice along with the documents is also available on the web-link: https://www.kalyansilks.com/pages/scheme-of-arrangement .

The notices of the aforesaid meeting together with the documents are also placed on the website of Central Depository Services (India) Limited : https://www.evotingindia.com/noticeResults.jsp, being the agency appointed by the Demerged Company to provide the e-voting and other facilities for convening the Meeting.

Unsecured creditors who wish to obtain physical copies of documents relating to the Scheme may obtain the same free of charge from the registered office of the Demerged Company till a period of 7 days before the Meeting. Persons entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting, may vote in person or by proxy. Forms of proxy can be obtained from the registered office of the Demerged Company. Proxies in the prescribed form are to be deposited at the registered office of the Demerged Company not later than 48 hours before the Meeting.

The Tribunal has appointed Ms Krishna Dayama to be the Chairperson for the said Meeting of the unsecured creditors and Ms CS Sreepriya Kalarikkal to be the Scrutinizer for the Meeting.

An unsecured creditor, whose name appears in the list of unsecured creditors of the Demerged Company as on the cut-off date, i.e. 31 December 2025("Cut-Off Date") only shall be entitled to voting rights on the resolution proposed in the Notice and attend the Meeting. A person who is not an unsecured creditor as on 31 December 2025, should treat the Notice for information purpose only. The value and number of unsecured creditors shall be in accordance with the books / records maintained by the Demerged Company.

The unsecured creditors of the Demerged Company shall have the facility and option of voting on the resolution for approval of the Scheme by casting their votes: (a) by remote electronic voting during the period as stated below ("remote e-voting"); or (b) through e-voting system available at the meeting to be held virtually ("e-Voting at the Meeting"). The e-Voting can be availed by those unsecured creditors who will also be present physically for the Meeting. Unsecured Creditors of the Demerged Company attending the Meeting who have not already cast their vote by remote e-voting shall be able to exercise their vote at the Meeting.

The cut-off date for e-voting and time period for the remote e-voting of the aforesaid meeting is as under:

Unsecured creditors meeting	
Cut off date for e-voting	31 December 2025, Wednesday
Remote e-voting start date and time	21 April 2026, Tuesday at 9.00 A.M(IST)
Remote e-voting end date and time	04 May 2026, Monday at 5.00 P.M(IST)

The facility of casting votes by an unsecured creditor using electronic means, i.e. (i) remote e-voting; and (ii) e-voting during the Meeting is being provided by Central Depository Services (India) Limited ("CDSL"). At the end of the remote e-voting period, the remote e-voting module shall be disabled by CDSL for voting thereafter.

Unsecured Creditors of the Demerged Company who need assistance before or during the Meeting, can contact CDSL helpdesk by sending a request by email at helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or contact at toll free no. 1800 21 09911.

The abovementioned Scheme, if approved by the unsecured creditors at the Meeting, will be subject to the subsequent sanction of the Tribunal and such other approvals, permissions and sanctions of regulatory or other authorities, as may be necessary.

Unsecured Creditors of the Demerged Company seeking any information with regard to the Scheme or the matter proposed to be considered at the Meeting, are requested to send their queries at least 7 days before the date of the meeting through email to the email addresses of the Chairperson at adv.krishh@gmail.com and the Scrutinizer at cspriyaharish@gmail.com respectively

Sd/-
Ms Krishna Dayama
Chairperson appointed by the Tribunal for the Meeting

03 April 2026

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Special Division, Shivamogga
Ph: 08182-222943 **Email ID:** spdivision@gmail.com

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two-cover system) (Through KPP portal) 2nd Call

IFT No. 54/2025-26 **Date: 27.03.2026**

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Shimoga Special Division, invites tenders as per K.T.P.P act 2000, in standard Bid document K/W-3 (two cover system) Contractors has registered in PWD Department Class-3 & above can apply under head of account 3054-04-337-1-10-200-MDR Road Maintenance-Conducting Land plan survey in MDR Roads at PWD Special Division Shimoga for the year 2025-26 (Indent No-34113) Amount put to tender is **Rs. 59.21 Lakhs** and EMD amount is **Rs.1.185 lakhs**. Time allowed for completion of work is 09 Months including Monsoon. The tenderers may submit tenders through KPPP- portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz., http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in)**. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Section -2 (Instructions to tenderers) of document, to qualify for award of the contract. Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal from **27-03-2026 to 06-04-2026** Last date for Receipt of Tender is on **06-04-2026 at 17.00 PM.** The Technical bid will be opened on **07-04-2026 at 05.30 PM** onwards and Financial bid will be opened after **08-04-2026** Onwards. If there any changes in publication, it will be publishing through E-Procurement only. For more information may be obtained from the office during working hours. Information published in Website is final.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Public Works Department,
Special Division, Shivamogga

DIPR/SMG/No. 10-04/ Zenkar/2026-27

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Man held for allegedly murdering wife over financial dispute

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Peenya police have arrested a 45-year-old businessman for allegedly stomping his wife to death following a financial dispute on Thursday.

The accused, identified as Dhariyappa, a small-time businessman, allegedly killed his wife, Kavya after a heated argument at their residence. According to the police, they received information about the incident on Thursday afternoon and rushed to the spot.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the couple had frequent disputes over financial and domestic issues. During one such argument, Dhariyappa allegedly assaulted Kavya and repeatedly kicked her on the neck, leading to her death, the police said. The accused was subsequently taken into custody.

"A case is being registered. The motive appears to be financial and domestic issues. Further investigation is under way to ascertain the exact circumstances," a senior police officer said.

The police said they are continuing the probe to gather more evidence and verify the sequence of events leading to the crime.

APSRTC bus crashes into median; no one injured

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) bus met with an accident near Sivananda Circle in the city on Thursday morning after the driver allegedly swerved to avoid hitting an autorickshaw.

The bus was travelling from Adoni to Bengaluru via Anantapur when the incident occurred. As the vehicle approached the Shivananda Circle, an autorickshaw reportedly came close to the bus's left side.

In an attempt to avoid a collision, the driver steered the bus to the right, losing control and crashing into the road divider. The impact of the crash caused significant damage to the front portion of the bus.

Despite the severity of the accident, no passengers were injured.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, खूँटी

निविदा रद्द सूचना

एतत् द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि इस प्रमंडल द्वारा आमंत्रित अति अल्पकालीन ई0 निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं0– RDD/SD/KHUNTI/04/2024-25 3rd Call जिसका पी0आर0 संख्या 351662 RURAL DEVELOPMENT (2024-25) D अपरिहार्य कारणों से रद्द किया जाता है।

यह आदेश तत्काल प्रभाव से लागू समझा जाय।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,
खूँटी

PR 376578 Rural Development(26-27)#D

PUBLIC NOTICE

LOSS OF ORIGINAL GIFT DEED

Notice is hereby given to the general public that Smt. Varsha I. G., W/o Sri. Nataraja G. R., resident of Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru, is the absolute owner of agricultural land measuring 2-00 Acres (out of total 3-00 Acres) in Survey No. 270/2, Banavati Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, purchased via Registered Sale Deed dated 31-03-2026.The Original Registered Gift Deed dated 25-09-2010 (Registered as Document No: DBP-1-02735/2010-11 at SRO Doddaballapura) is lost/misplaced and is untraceable. A Karnataka State Police e-Lost Report has been filed (Serial No: 2136603/2026).Any person finding the said original document or having any claim/objection over the said 2-00 acres of land is requested to contact the undersigned within 7 days of this notice. If no claims are received, it will be deemed that the title is clear.

Smt. Varsha I. G, W/o Sri. Nataraja G. R, No 16, SLVS ENCLAVE, FLAT No. 302, 3rd Floor, 1st Cross, APC Layout, Thindlu, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore - 560097, Contact: 94812 48822 Date: 03.04.2026

CITY CORPORATION VIJAYAPUR

No:CCV/PWD/EE/DMA/TND/E-proc/2025-26 Dated:01.04.2026

KPP PORTAL SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer, City Corporation Vijayapur invites tenders from eligible tenders registered the **1) 04 work under Corporation Fund 2025-26, 2) 02 works under Day Nulm Grant, 3) 02 works under Census Grant and 4) 01 work under 15th Finance Health Grant.** Tenders are called in standard tender document through E-Procurement portal. For further details visit online web site **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**.

Note: 1) Tender Corrigendum and Addendum will be issued in kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal

1) Last date for Tender submission:10.04.2026

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
City Corporation, Vijayapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/005/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

Government of Karnataka
TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, SHIGGAON-581205
Dist : Haveri State : Karantaka

Email id : ka.shiggaon.tmc@gmail.com phone:- 08378-255250 Website: https://www.shiggaontown.mrc.gov.in

NO:TMC SGN/Eng/SFCSG/Eng S/2025-26 Date: 02-04-2026

Tender Notification

The Chief Officer, TMC Shiggaon, invites e-tenders for the following Work Indent Under SFC Special Grant 2024-25. Interested Contractor can download the tender documents from the e-procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Indent Number :**(DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT56689)**

Estimated Amount Rs : **400.00 lakhs**

(1) Pre bid Meeting on **24/04/2026** Morning 11.30 AM (2) Last Date for Tender Submission through KPPE Online **30/04/2026** up to Evening 5.30 PM (3) Technical Bid Opening through KPPE on **02/05/2026** Morning 11.00 AM (4) Financial Bid Opening through KPPE on **04/05/2026** Morning 11.00 AM

Sd/- Sri. Mallesh R
Chief Officer
Tmc Shiggaon

Sd/- Sri Shubham Shukla (IAS)
Administrator
Tmc Shiggaon

DIPR/Haveri/KSMCA/10/2026-27

Government of Jharkhand
Jharkhand Flying Institute
Department of Cabinet Secretariat & Vigilance
(Civil Aviation Division)
State Hangar, Birsa Munda Airport Road, Hinoo Ranchi-834002
E-mail-jfi.govtfly@gmail.com, Website-www.jharkhandaviation.in

Ref No:- A/c-GT/JFI/69/2025-182/Ranchi, Dated.-02.04.2026

e-GLOBAL TENDER NOTICE

Jharkhand Flying Institute (JFI) invites **online e-Bids under the Two-Bid System** from **Aircraft Manufacturers/ Authorized Distributor of Manufacturers/Authorized Vendors** for the **purchase of brand-new Two-Seater / Four-Seater Trainee Aircraft** for its Flying Training Organization.

The **Request for Proposal (RFP)** containing detailed scheduled of events & terms and conditions is available on the Jharkhand Government e-Procurement Portal:-**http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in**

Sd/-
Capt. S. P. Sinha
(Managing Director)Jharkhand Flying Institute

PR 376513 (Civil Aviation)26-27*D

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 & 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 080-22265383 website:www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-03/31/2026-27 Date:02.04.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work mentioned below:

Name of the work: Providing & Supplying of MS Gravity Main from Obalapura Junction in Nelamangala Taluk at Ch.2.60 Km Offtake from Main Trunk of Cauvery River Water Supply Scheme (Package-3) to WTP at KWIN City for Supplying of fresh water to KWIN City at Doddaballapura & Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

- Last Date for submission of Bids: **21.04.2026** upto **4:00** pm.

Applicants May download bidding documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Chief Engineer-1
KIADB, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/31/CCL/2026-27

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client Sri. Santhosh.V has instituted a case for relief of Specific Performance and such other reliefs in respect of the schedule property in O.S.No.1691/2026 on the file of City Civil Judge at Bangalore, against Smt.Parimala Y.M. The Hon'ble Court has granted injunction order restrain the above person from alienating the suit schedule property. it is further informing the general public not to deal any transactions with the above aforesaid person. If doing so, they are doing at their own cost and risk.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing EPID No. 8557320123 and the said property is formed in Sy.No.19/3, 27/2, 28/1 of Kadirenahalli Village, Bengaluru South Taluk which is situated at BSK 2nd Stage, Ward No.181, Kumaraswamy Layout, Kanaka Layout 1st Main road, Bengaluru-560070, measuring into an extent East to West 48 + 52/2 feet and North to South 30 feet, in totally 1500 square feet with 8 sqare RCC building and bounded on:-

East by : Road, West by : Private property, North by : Site No.122, South by : C.A. Site.

Sd/-
N.R. NAIK & ASSOCIATES (Advocate)
No. 147/7, Sreerama Road, 2nd Block, Thyagarajanagar, Bangalore - 560 028.
Mob: 9844067808

Place: Bangalore
Date 16.06.2025

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RDW&S DEPARTMENT
Court Road, Chamarajanagara Division, Chamarajanagara
Office And EE : 08226-226054, E-mail : eerdwsd.chn2014@gmail.com

TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 14/2025-26, Dated : 31-03-2026

On Behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Dept, Chamarajanagara Division, **Chamarajanagar** Invites from eligible General Contractors for the execution of **Supply of Goods / Equipment to the Material Recovery Facility at Shivapura Grama Panchayath in Chamarajanagar Taluk in Chamarajanagar District** respectively. The eligible Bidders / Tenders Contractors are required to submit through E-Procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The Notification includes Packages/ individual Goods Tender Estimated Cost varies from **Rs. 97.75 Lakhs**. Tenders are invited through E-procurement Portal only.

1	Date & Time of Publication of Tender	31-03-2026 17:00 hrs Onwards
2	Last date of Submission of bids	15-04-2026 @ 17:00 hrs
3	Date & Time of opening of Technical Bids	17-04-2026 @ 10:00 hrs
4	Date & Time of opening of Financial Bids	18-04-2026 @ 10:30 hrs

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDW & S Department,
Chamarajanagara Division, Chamarajanagara.

No. : DIPR:CHANAGAR:03:2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO) LIQUID PROPULSION SYSTEMS CENTRE (LPSC)
Construction & Maintenance Division
LPSC Campus, 80 Ft. Road, HAL II Stage, Bengaluru -560 008. Ph:080-25037203/080-25037214

Date: 02.04.2026

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, item rate tenders are invited for the following work:

Sl. No.	Name of work and NIT No. & Date	Estimated Amount	EMD	Period of Completion
1	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 5T Floor mounted jib crane in 4 axes VTMC facility at ITPF, LPSC, Tumakuru NIT No: LPSC(B)/CMD/02/2040/MECH/MI/001/2026-27 Date: 01.04.2026	₹ 23.89 Lakhs	₹ 47,780/-	03 Months
2	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of UPS Systems for ITPF facility Tumakuru-Providing earthing system. NIT No: LPSC(B)/CMD/02/2041/E/MI/002/2026-27 Date: 01.04.2026	₹ 20.64 Lakhs	₹ 41,280/-	20 Days
3	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of UPS Systems for ITPF facility Tumakuru-Providing input & output cable system. NIT No: LPSC(B)/CMD/02/2042/E/MI/003/2026-27 Date: 01.04.2026	₹ 23.50 Lakhs	₹ 47,000/-	20 Days
	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	From 18:30 hrs on 02.04.2026 to 14.04.2026 till 23:59 hrs.		
	Bid Clarification	From 20:00 hrs on 02.04.2026 to 15.04.2026 till 10:00 hrs.		
	Last date and time reply to Bid Clarification	15.04.2026 up to 17:00 hrs.		
	Last date and time for receipt of tenders	16.04.2026 up to 11:00 hrs.		
	Due date and time of opening of tenders	16.04.2026 up to 11:30 hrs.		

Interested tenderers may please refer **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.** Also detailed Notice Invting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from **www.isro.gov.in, www.lpsc.gov.in**

Sd/- Head CMD, LPSC(B)

FORM A
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(Regulation 14 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2017)
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF PERRY JOHNSON ASSOCIATES PRIVATE LIMITED

1.	NAME OF CORPORATE PERSON	PERRY JOHNSON ASSOCIATES PRIVATE LIMITED
2.	DATE OF INCORPORATION OF CORPORATE PERSON	02/05/2005
3.	AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH CORPORATE PERSON IS INCORPORATED / REGISTERED	Roc Bangalore
4.	CORPORATE IDENTITY NUMBER / LIMITED LIABILITY IDENTITY NUMBER OF CORPORATE PERSON	U64202KA2005PTC036196
5.	ADDRESS OF THE REGISTERED OFFICE AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE (IF ANY) OF CORPORATE PERSON	#50 Opposite Big Bazar, Above Karnataka Bank, 3rd Floor, K H Road, Bangalore, Karnataka, India - 560027
6.	LIQUIDATION COMMENCEMENT DATE OF CORPORATE PERSON	30.03.2026
7.	NAME, ADDRESS, EMAIL ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER AND THE REGISTRATION NUMBER OF THE LIQUIDATOR, AUTHORISATION FOR ASSIGNMENT (AFA) Validity	CS THIRUPAL GORIGE No. 87, 2nd floor, 21st Cross, 7th Main, N S. Palya, BTM 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560076, KARNATAKA, INDIA Cell +91 94483 84064, LI +080 7963 4233 Email: gthirupal@gmail.com IP registration no. IBBI/IPA-002/IP-N00016/2016-17/10030 AFA valid up to 31/12/2026
8.	LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS	29.04.2026

Notice is hereby given that **Perry Johnson Associates Private Limited** has commenced voluntary liquidation on 30.03.2026.

The stakeholders of **Perry Johnson Associates Private Limited** are hereby called upon to submit a proof of their claims, on or before 29.04.2026 to the liquidator at the address mentioned against item 7.

The financial creditors shall submit their proof of claims by electronic means only. All other stakeholders may submit the proof of claims in person, by post or by electronic means. Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

Sd/-
Thirupal Gorige
Liquidator

Date: 02/04/2026
Place: Bangalore

Biharsharif Smart City Limited
CIN-U93000BR2018SGC038181
Registered office-First Floor, Administrative Building, Biharsharif Municipal Corporation, Nalanda
Govt. of Bihar

NOTICE FOR EMPLOYMENT (NIT No-12/2025-26)

Biharsharif Smart City Ltd. (BSSCL), a Special Purpose Vehicle Company (SPV) is inviting application from experienced and dynamic professionals who are motivated to work for the innovative scheme of Smart Cities.

Employment Detail: -

क्र. सं0	पद का नाम	नियुक्ति के प्रकार	पदों की संख्या	शैक्षणिक योग्यता	अनुभव	अधिकतम उम्र सीमा	मानदेय (रुपया प्रतिमाह) प्रति पद	श्रेणी
1.	Chief Finance Officer (CFO)	Contract based	1	**For Contractual-** Graduation in any discipline with at least 60% marks or equivalent grade point average and Member of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India or Institute of Cost Accountant of India or ICA or AICWAI. Preference will be given to those candidates who are also a Member of Institute of Company Secretaries of India.	For Contractual- Not less 10 years of post qualification experience in managerial capacity in an equivalent of similar position in a reputed organization. For Deputation/Retired- Having post qualification experience of not less than 20 years in financial matters or services.	55	1,25,000	UR
2.	Comapany Secretary	Contract based	1	Graduation in any discipline with at least 60% marks or equivalent grade point average and Member of Institute of company seretaries of India.	Not less than 05 years of post qualification experience in managerial capacity in an equivalent or similar position in a reputed organisation. LLB will be an added advantage.	50	90,000	UR

General Instructions

1. Applications will be accepted **through email only** up to **11:59 PM on 20th April 2026**.
2. The **interview will be conducted at Vikas Bhawan, Urban Development and Housing Department, Government of Bihar, Patna**. The list of shortlisted candidates and the interview schedule will be communicated via email.
3. Detailed information and the application form can be downloaded from the official website: https://biharsharifnagarnigam.co.in/home
4. The duly filled application form along with all relevant documents must be submitted **through email only** at **biharsharifsmartcitylimited@gmail.com** on or before **11:59 PM, 20th April 2026**.
5. Applicants must clearly mention the **post applied for along with the category** in the application form.
6. The engagement shall be **purely on a contractual basis** initially for a period of **three (03) years or till the expiry of Biharsharif Smart City Limited (whichever is earlier)** and may be extended by the Board based on performance and project requirements.
7. Candidates currently serving in **Government Departments/Undertakings** must submit a **No Objection Certificate (NOC)** at the time of joining.
8. Candidates once recruited by Biharsharif Smart City Limited will be **restricted to offer their services elsewhere**.
9. All posts are **non-practicing in nature**.

Managing Director

For further details please visit : **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar**

PR- 000049 (B & C) 2026-27

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

UP Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd.
(A U.P. Govt. Enterprises)

TENDER NOTICE

UPRVUNL invites Domestic Online Bids from eligible firms for:

"Implementation of DARPAN (Data Analytics for Real-Time Performance Assessment & Notification) - AI/ML based Centralized Monitoring System with Performance Optimization, Advisory & Analytics." for its Thermal Power Plants

Bld Details

- **Tender ID:** 01/Pragati/UNL/T-1/26-27 Date: 02.04.2026
- **Bidding Type:** Single Stage-Two Part
- **EMD:** ₹1.60 Crore
- **Tender Fee:** ₹1180/- (incl. GST Portal)
- **Portal: https://etender.up.nic.in**

Important Dates

- **Pre-Bid Meeting:** 17.04.2026 at 12:00 hrs (15th Floor, Shakti Bhawan, Lucknow)
- **Bid Submission Last Date:** 02.05.2026 up to 12:00 hrs
- **Technical Bid (Part-1) Opening:** 04.05.2026 at 14:00 hrs

Bidders are advised to visit the e-tender portal regularly for updates/corrigendum.

Chief Project Manager
(Pragati Unit)
Mobile: 9415900616

Email: cpm.pragati@uprvunl.org

"Save Electricity for Nation"

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
CHAMRAJPET BRANCH (SOL ID : 69210)
Address: No.97, Mahaveer Arcade, First Floor, Sirsi Road, Chamrajpet Bengaluru – 560 018

POSSESSION NOTICE
[Rule - 8 (1)] (For immovable Property)

Whereas:

The undersigned being the authorized Officer of the Union Bank of India, **CHAMRAJPET BRANCH (SOLD ID : 69210)**, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a **Demand Notice dated 08.01.2026** calling upon the Borrowers **Mr. Muniyappa K (Applicant), Mr. Sathish M (Co-applicant)** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice of **Rs. 8,06,672.51 as on 29.12.2025** plus interest and incidental charges thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement) **Rules 2002 on this 26.03.2026.**

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Union Bank of India, **CHAMRAJPET BRANCH (SOLD ID : 69210)** for an amount of **Rs.8,06,672.51 as on 29.12.2025** plus interest and incidental charges thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SECURED ASSET/s

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Site NO.39, Ward no.160 old assessment no.52 New no.138/2, PID 160-W0523-6 ,First main road, Kariyappa layout, Hosakerehalli village,Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore south taluk, Bangalore now within BBMP limit, Bangalore, Measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 25 feet Totally measuring 1000 sq ft and ad bounded on the

East By: Road	West By: Site no.52
North By: Site no.40	South By: Site no.38

Date: 26.03.2026
Place : BENGALURU

Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India

M BG-BGE

State government to expand Sneha Centres, establish integrated counselling units

These centres are set up under Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram, a Government of India programme, to provide counselling and health services to adolescents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka has approved the expansion of adolescent-friendly Sneha Centres and the establishment of integrated counselling units across government health facilities to strengthen services under the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK).

RKSK, a Government of India programme implemented in the State under the National Health Mission (NHM) since 2015-16, focuses on improving the health and well-being of adolescents. Under the programme, Adolescent Friendly Health Centres (AFHCs), known as Sneha Centres in Karnataka, provide counselling and basic health services.

At present, gaps remain in implementation, with 14 districts lacking Sneha clinics. While some districts have infrastructure, counsellor positions are vacant, affecting service delivery.

The government has now decided to operationalise counselling services at all health facilities – from district hospitals to sub-centres – by utilising counsellors available under various NHM programmes. A Government Order (GO) in this regard has been issued on April 1.

The government has decided to operationalise counselling services at all health facilities by utilising counsellors available under various NHM programmes. FILE PHOTO

Where counsellors are not available, medical officers, staff nurses, and sub-centre staff will be trained in adolescent counselling.

Outpatient services under Sneha Centres will continue through existing medical and paramedical staff, the order stated.

Integrated counselling
A key component of the GO is the creation of Samagra Samalochana Kendra (SSK), an integrated counselling model to be set up at district hospitals, taluk hospitals and community health centres.

Under this model, counsellors working in different programmes, such as mental health, NCD, TB, adolescent health, and others, will function as integrated counsellors, offering services across programmes instead of being limited to specific beneficiary groups.

Infrastructure, training
Health facilities have been directed to designate private spaces for counselling, with basic infrastructure such as tables and chairs. Multiple counselling units can be created within a facility for better access.

Counsellors will receive additional training to handle cross-programme responsibilities, supported by digital tools and learning resources developed under NHM. Monitoring and reporting will be streamlined under a single supervisory structure at the district and State levels. Field outreach activities will also be integrated. For instance, school visits under RKSK can be combined with community outreach under other programmes to improve efficiency, the GO stated.

School linkage
The government plans to develop a consolidated resource module by combining existing RKSK materials, School Health and Wellness Programme content and modules developed by NIMHANS.

The initiative will also be aligned with the Education Department's systems. School health ambassadors may be designated as nodal teachers for RKSK activities, and awareness content will be integrated into the curriculum.

Special OPD services
A system will be developed to identify high-need children through screening programmes. Specialist consultations – such as paediatric, psychiatric and orthopaedic services – will be organised on the 13th of every month for such cases.

'Anaemia remains a serious challenge in women's health, with over 67% of pregnant women affected'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Shalini Rajneesh points out the lack of focus on preventive healthcare training among medical professionals

Anaemia remains a serious challenge in women's health, with over 67% of pregnant women affected, Shalini Rajneesh, Chief Secretary to the Government of Karnataka. She was speaking at the International Women's Day celebration organised by Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) on Thursday.

She described the extent of anaemia as alarming and called for urgent attention. Despite being biologically strong, many women suffer from anaemia due to underlying social factors, she said. She stressed the need to prioritise women's health to ensure a healthier future generation.

Ms. Rajneesh pointed out the lack of focus on preventive healthcare training among medical professionals. "While we train healthcare workers to treat diseases, we often fail to equip them with preventive care skills she observed," she noted.

Emphasising the importance of empathy in the medical profession, she stated that qualities such as compassion, care, empathy and kindness, often associated with women, are essential for doctors to truly serve patients.

"While doctors handle numerous cases daily, for each patient and their family, it is a matter of deep concern. Therefore, every patient must be treated with utmost care and compassion," she said.

Bhagawan B.C., V-C of RGUHS, highlighted that society becomes stronger when women support each other. Mohammed Mohsin, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare (Medical Education), B.L. Sujatha Rathod, Director, Directorate of Medical Education and others participated.

Diagnostics hub planned at Victoria Hospital

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a move to improve access to advanced diagnostic services in government hospitals, the Health Department has proposed setting up a centralised hub laboratory at Victoria Hospital under Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI).

The initiative is aimed at providing high-end diagnostic tests that are currently unavailable in many government hospitals, forcing patients to depend on private laboratories and hospitals.

Officials said the proposed hub lab at Victoria Hospital will help bridge this gap by enabling access to advanced testing within the public healthcare system. Hospitals have been directed to submit the required proposals for establishing the facility through a government order issued in this regard on April 1.

The department is looking to expand diagnostic services across Health Department-run hospitals by optimising existing laboratory infrastructure.

At present, walk-in patients are being provided diagnostic services at CGHS rates through HIND Labs operated by HLL Lifecare Limited at K C General Hospital.

The government now plans to extend a similar model to Sir C V Raman General Hospital and Jayanagar General Hospital, and has sought proposals from these hospitals.

In addition, instructions have been issued to utilise government lab capacity more effectively by offering services to walk-in patients, including those above the poverty line (APL), at prescribed rates.

Home sample collection
To improve access for vulnerable groups, the department has proposed home sample collection services for elderly, critically ill and chronically ill patients who are unable to visit hospitals regularly.

Under this system, trained phlebotomists will visit patients' homes to collect samples.

AI-based monitoring system to improve quality in government-run dialysis units

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To enhance clinical oversight and improve the quality of care across dialysis centres under the State's public-private partnership (PPP) model, an AI-based smart monitoring system has been introduced in seven centres across the State. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao launched the system at K.C. General Hospital on Thursday.

The AI-enabled platform, introduced by NephroPlus, integrates advanced monitoring and surveillance technology into dialysis centres under the government's PPP programme, with a focus on strengthening patient safety, clinical oversight and standardised care.

Real-time tracking
The system enables real-time tracking of critical dialysis parameters, including blood pressure, fluid removal and electrolyte balance, allowing healthcare teams to closely monitor patients during treatment and respond quickly to any variations.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao at the inauguration of the AI-powered smart monitoring portal at K.C. General Hospital in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The platform monitors 28 key indicators such as adherence to dialysis protocols, clinical care, patient safety, bed availability, staff alertness, emergency preparedness, infection control, hygiene, security compliance and overall operational efficiency.

Digital governance
Officials said the system creates a digital governance layer by replacing periodic audits with continuous, AI-driven monitoring. It also supports automated Key Performance Indicator (KPI) tracking and data-driven clinical and operational decision-making, improving transparency and consistency in care delivery.

The platform operates at an accuracy level of 85% to 95%, with further refinements expected to enhance its performance and predictive capabilities.

"Karnataka has been committed to expanding access to dialysis services through the PPP model. The introduction of AI-enabled monitoring systems further strengthens this effort by improving clinical oversight and enhancing patient safety," the Minister said.

> It is encouraging to see how innovation and partnerships can work together to ensure that dialysis services delivered under the PPP programme match and even exceed, private sector standards
>
> **DINESH GUNDU RAO**
> Health Minister

"It is encouraging to see how innovation and partnerships can work together to ensure that dialysis services delivered under the PPP programme match, and even exceed, private sector standards," he added.

A live demonstration of AI-powered dashboards was held during the launch, showcasing real-time monitoring of dialysis procedures and quality indicators.

ಕೆನರಾ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Fifthgaz Syndicate

Mysore Bank Circle Branch : BWSSB Road, Rajdooth Complex, Mysore Bank Circle, Po Bangalore City S.o Bengaluru-560002
Email: cb10446@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE TO BORROWER / GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR

Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

To,

Borrower : 1. Mr Venkatakrishna S/o Sri Venkataswamy
No 1020, 10th Main Road ,woc Road, Near Shankarmutt ,Mahalakshmipuram , mahalakshmipuram Layout Bangalore North ,Bengaluru, Karnataka 560086.
Also Resided at : No. 1542, 9th Main A Block ,Subramanya Nagar , Rajajinagar 2nd Stage ,Bangalore North ,BENGALURU ,KARNATAKA 560010
2. MRS. PRASHANTHI (Co-borrower in OSL-SYNDMORTGAGE-MCLR) WO VENKATAKRISHNA NO 1542
9th Main A Block Subramanyanagar , Rajajinagar Ii Stage ,Bangalore North , bengaluru Karnataka 560010.

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Canara Bank, Mysore Bank Circle branch** (hereinafter referred to as "the secured creditor"), appointed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter referred as the "Act") do hereby informs that do hereby issue this notice to you as under:

That **Mr Venkatakrishna & Mrs. Prashanthi** (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower") has availed credit facility / facilities stated in the Schedule A hereunder and have entered into the security agreement/s in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount/s in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above mentioned agreements.

You (The person mentioned in **schedule B)** have also entered in to agreements against the secured assets which are detailed in Schedule B hereunder.

However, from **31.12.2025**, the operation and conduct of the said financial assistance / credit facilities have become irregular. The books of account maintained by the secured creditor shows that the liability of the Borrower towards the secured creditor as on date amounts to Rs. **55,06,919.88 (Rupees Fifty Five Lakhs Six Thousand Nine Hundred Ninteen and Paisa Eighty Eight Only)**, the details of which together with future interest rate are stated in Schedule C hereunder. It is further stated that the Borrower/Guarantor having failed to keep up with the terms of the above said agreement in clearing the dues of the secured creditor within the time given and have been evasive in settling the dues. The operation and conduct of the above said financial assistance / credit facility/ies having come to a standstill and as a consequence of the default committed in repayment of principal debt/ instalment and interest thereon, the secured creditor was constrained to classify the debt as **Non-Performing Asset (NPA) as on 31.03.2026** in accordance with the directives/guidelines relating to asset classification issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

The secured creditor through this notice brings to your attention that the Borrower has failed and neglected to repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities and hence hereby demand you under Section 13(2) of the Act, by issuing this notice to discharge in full the liabilities of the Borrower as stated in **Schedule C** hereunder to the secured creditor within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice. Further, it is brought to your notice that you are also liable to pay future interest at the rate stated in Schedule C hereunder (Including penal interest) per annum, together with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses with respect to the proceedings undertaken by the secured creditor in recovering its dues.

Please take note of the fact that if you fail to repay to the secured creditor the afore said sum of **Rs. 55,06,919.88 (Rupees Fifty Five Lakhs Six Thousand Nine Hundred Ninteen and Paise Eighty Eight Only)**, together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13(2) of the Act, the secured creditor will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-section (4)(a) and (b) of Section 13, the extract of which is given here below to convey the seriousness of this issue:

13(4)- In case the Borrower/Co-Borrower fails to discharge liability in full within the period specified in sub-section (2), the secured creditor may take recourse to one or more of the following measures to recover his secured debt, namely;

(a) Take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower/Co-Borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset;

(b) Take over the management of the business of the Borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset:

Provided that the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale shall be exercised only where the substantial part of the business of the Borrower is held as security for the debt;

Provided further that where the management of whole of the business or part of the business is severable, the secured creditor shall take over the management of such business of the borrower which is relatable to the security for the debt; and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

You are also put on notice that in terms of section 13(13) the Borrower/Co-Borrower shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in Schedule B hereunder without obtaining written consent of the secured creditor. It is further brought to your notice that any contravention of this statutory injunction/ restraint, as provided under the said Act, is an offence and if for any reason, the secured assets are sold or leased out in the ordinary course of business, the sale proceeds or income realized shall be deposited with the secured creditor. In this regard you shall have to render proper accounts of such realization / income.

This notice of Demand is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which the secured creditor may have including further demands for the sums found due and payable by you.

This is without prejudice to any other rights available to the secured creditor under the Act and/or any other law in force.

Please comply with the demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of Non- compliance, further needful action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and consequence.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

SCHEDULE –A
[Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower]

S No.	Loan No.	Nature of Loan	Date of sanction	Amount
1	04467740000785	OSL-SYNDNIVAS NEW CONSTRUCTION -BR	29.03.2014	Rs. 40,00,000.00
2	04469830000166	OSL-SYND MORTGAGE-MCLR	25.06.2019	Rs. 18,50,000.00

SCHEDULE –B

Details of Security Assets : Immovable :
Schedule –A: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing SOUTHERN PORTION of Site No.9, New BBMP Katha No.22/82/200/9, Old of Sy. No.14, duly converted for Non-Agricultural residential purposes, vide No. B.D S. A L N.S R (S) /261/2003-04, dated 27/10/2003, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, situated at THIPPASANDRA VILLAGE, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk. Measuring East to West 40 feet, North to South 20 feet Totally measuring 800 Sqft. and bounded on the: **East by :** Property No.10 , **West by:** Road , **North by:** Remaining Portion of Same Property & **South by:** Property No.14.
Name of Title Holder : Mr. Venkata Krishna

SCHEDULE – C
[Details of liability as on 02.04.2026]

S No.	Loan No.	Nature of Loan	Liability With Interest	Rate Of Interest (Inclusive Penal Interest)
1	04467740000785	OSL-SYNDNIVAS NEW CONSTRUCTION -BR	Rs. 42,04,467.28	10.00%
2	04469830000166	OSL-SYND MORTGAGE-MCLR	Rs. 13,02,452.60	13.65%

Place : Bangalore
Date : 02.04.2026
Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

ಕೆನರಾ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Fifthgaz Syndicate

Trinity Circle Branch, BSNL Complex, S V Road, Bengaluru-560008.
Email : cb0792@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE TO BORROWER / GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR

Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

To,

Borrower : M/s Dhattadamini Private Limited, No 235 Binnamangala, 13th Cross, 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Bengaluru-560038.
2. Mr. Vijay P (Director) S/o Damodara Raju P S, 1478, 17th A Main, Near Bangalore Central, J P Nagar 2nd Phase, Bengaluru- 560078.
3. Mr. Manish Kumar Sharma (Director) S/o Madan Sharma, No 235, Binnamangala, 13th Cross, 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Bengaluru- 560038.
4. Smt. Sudha Venkatesh (Guarantor Cum Mortgagor)
Proprietrix M/s Muras Techno Casts W/o M Venkatesh
No.2380,7th Main Road,19th Cross, BSK 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560070
Also Residing at
Smt. Sudha Venkatesh (Guarantor Cum Mortgagor)
Proprietrix M/s Muras Techno Casts W/o M Venkatesh
No 78, 6th Cross, VTC Kathiraguppe Po,
Banashankari 3rd Stage, Benagaluru -560085
5. M/s Muras Techno Casts Proprietor Smt.Sudha Venkatesh
136A,Survey No Parts of 740 and 534, Harohalli Industrial Area, Phase-II, Harohalli Village Harohalli Hobli, Harohalli Taluk, Ramanagara District, Karnataka-561126.

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Canara Bank, TRINITY CIRCLE Branch (0792)** (hereinafter referred to as "the secured creditor"), appointed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter referred as the "Act") do hereby issue this notice to you as under:

That **M/S. Dhattadamini Private Limited Represented by its Directors Mr.VIJAY P and Mr.MANISH KUMAR SHARMA** (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower"1) has availed credit facility / facilities stated in the Schedule A hereunder and has entered into the security agreement/s in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount/s in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above-mentioned agreements.

That **Mr. Vijay P, Mr.manish Kumar Sharma And Smt.Sudha Venkatesh** , Proprietrix of **M/s Muras Techno Casts** (hereinafter referred to as the Guarantor") have guaranteed the payment on demand of all moneys and discharge all obligations and liabilities owing or incurred to the secured creditor by the Borrower for credit facilities up to the limit of **Rs.15,00,00,000.00 (Rupees Fifteen Crore only),** with interest thereon.

You (The person mentioned in schedule B) are also entered in to agreements against the secured assets which are detailed in Schedule B hereunder.

However, from **31.12.2025** the operation and conduct of the said financial assistance / credit facilities have become irregular. The books of account maintained by the secured assets shows that the liability of the Borrower towards the secured creditor as on date amounts to **Rs. 15,07,82,447.78 (Rupees Fifteen Crore Seven Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand Four Hundred Forty Seven And Paisa Seventy Eight only)** the details of which together with future interest rate are stated in Schedule C hereunder. It is further stated that the Borrower/Guarantor having failed to keep up with the terms of the above said agreement in clearing the dues of the secured creditor within the time given, and have been evasive in settling the dues. The operation and conduct of the above said financial assistance / credit facility/ies having come to a standstill and as a consequence of the default committed in repayment of principal debt/ instalment and interest thereon, the secured creditor was constrained to classify the debt as Non Performing Asset (NPA) as on **31.03.2026** in accordance with the directives/guidelines relating to asset classification issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

The secured creditor through this notice brings to your attention that the Borrower has failed and neglected to repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities and hence hereby demand you under Section 13(2) of the Act, by issuing this notice to discharge in full the liabilities of the Borrower as stated in Schedule C hereunder to the secured creditor within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice. Further, it is brought to your notice that you are also liable to pay future interest at rates mentioned schedule C hereunder together with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses with respect to the proceedings undertaken by the secured creditor in recovering its dues.

Please take note of the fact that if you fail to repay to the secured creditor the aforesaid sum of to **Rs. 15,07,82,447.78 (Rupees Fifteen Crore Seven Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand Four Hundred Forty Seven And Paisa Seventy Eight only)** together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13(2) of the Act, the secured creditor will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-section (4)(a) and (b) of Section 13, the extract of which is given here below to convey the seriousness of this issue:

13(4)- In case the Borrower/Guarantor fails to discharge liability in full within the period specified in sub-section (2), the secured creditor may take recourse to one or more of the following measures to recover his secured debt, namely;

(a) Take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower/Guarantor including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset;

(b)Take over the management of the business of the Borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset:

Provided that the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale shall be exercised only where the substantial part of the business of the Borrower is held as security for the debt;

Provided further that where the management of whole of the business or part of the business is severable, the secured creditor shall take over the management of such business of the borrower which is relatable to the security for the debt; and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

You are also put on notice that in terms of section 13(13) the Borrower/ Guarantor shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in Schedule B hereunder without obtaining written consent of the secured creditor. It is further brought to your notice that any contravention of this statutory injunction/ restraint, as provided under the said Act, is an offence and if for any reason, the secured assets are sold or leased out in the ordinary course of business, the sale proceeds or income realized shall be deposited with the secured creditor. In this regard you shall have to render proper accounts of such realization / income.

This notice of Demand is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which the secured creditor may have including further demands for the sums found due and payable by you.

This is without prejudice to any other rights available to the secured creditor under the Act and/or any other law in force.

Please comply with the demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of Non- compliance, further needful action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and consequence.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

SCHEDULE –A
[Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower]

S No.	Loan No.	Nature of Loan	Date of sanction	Amount
1	125006168420	MSME-OD/OCC	20.06.2024	Rs.1500.00 lakhs

SCHEDULE –B

Details of Security Assets : Movable : Hypothication of Stocks and Book debts. Name of Title Holder : M/s Dhattadamini Private Limited
Immovable : All that piece and parcel of immovable property being industrial plot bearing New No.136-A1,Portion of Entire Plot No.136A, presently E-property ID No.152900203701421545, E-Khata No.740/534/136/A, situated at Harohalli Industrial Area, Phase-II, carved out of Sy.No. parts of 740 and 534,Harohalli Village Harohalli Hobli, Harohalli Taluk, Ramanagara District, admeasuring 6894.23 Sq.mtrs or 1 Acre 28.01 Guntas, or thereabouts together with industrial building constructed thereon, provided with all civic amenities and bounded on the. **East by :** Plot No.136B, **West by :** Remaining portion of same Plot No.136A2 and HT Line, **North by :** Remaining portion of same Plot No.136A and **South by :** Road. **Name of Title Holder : Smt. Sudha Venkatesh W/o M Venkatesh, Proprietrix M/s Muras Techno Casts.**

SCHEDULE – C
[Details of liability as on date]

S No.	Loan No.	Nature of Loan	LIABILITY	RATE OF INTEREST
1	125006168420	MSME-OD/OCC	Rs. 15,07,82,447.78	12.50%

Place : Bangalore, Date : 02.04.2026
Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

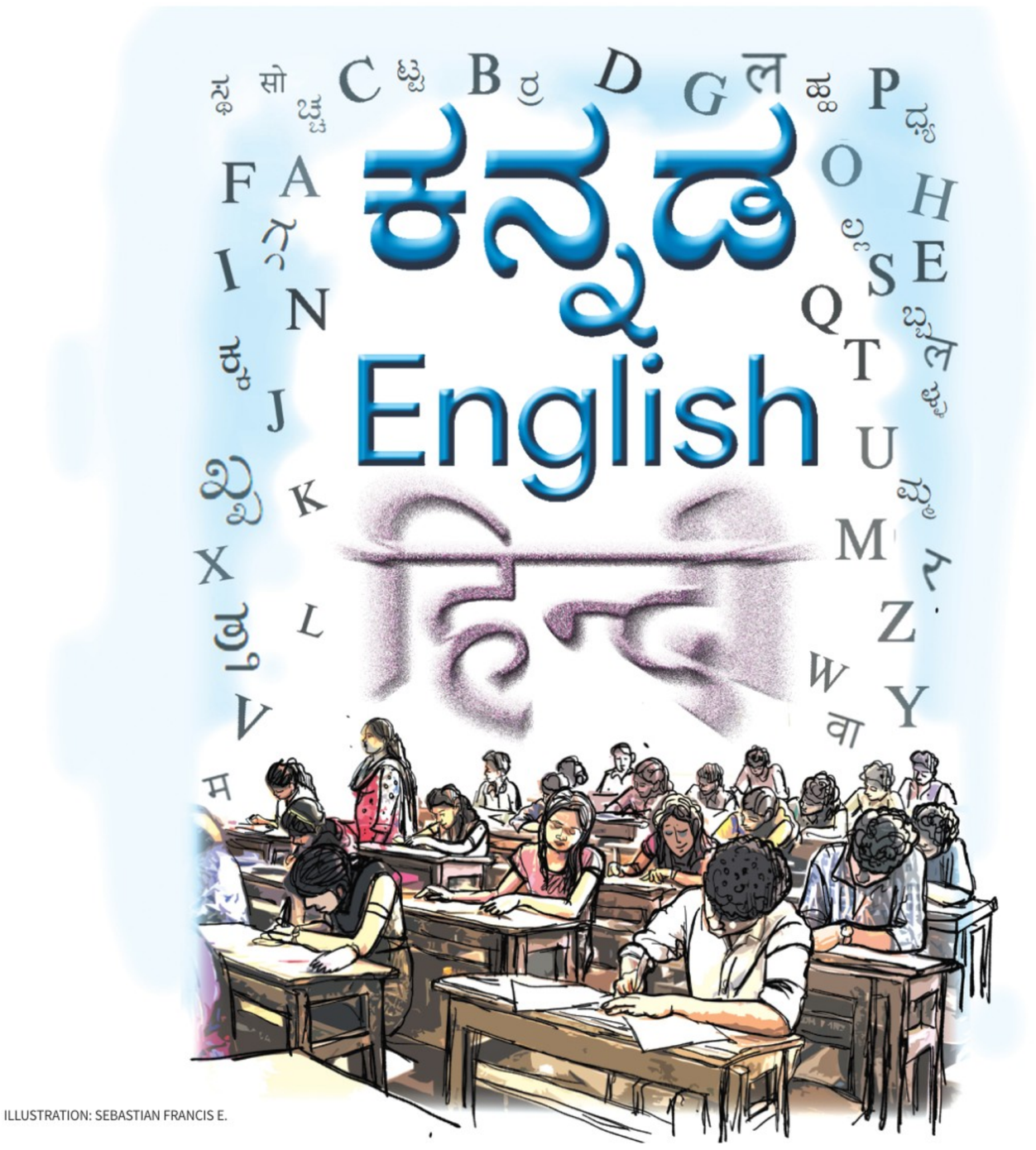


ILLUSTRATION: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS E.

Flutter over grading third language

Grading the third language paper and not counting it towards the total marks in SSLC in Karnataka is being seen as the first step towards a two-language policy, writes **Jayanth R.**

The Karnataka government's decision to not award marks for third language subjects, and instead give grades in the State Board class 10 (SSLC) exams, was announced midway through the examination process, taking all by surprise. It is seen politically as an "anti-Hindi move", but otherwise argued to be aimed at easing academic pressure on students.

While many have criticised the timing of the announcement, which created confusion, most have welcomed the intent of the move. Only the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders have, in principle, opposed it on the grounds of it being "anti-Hindi". Some of them have vowed to bring back the three-language formula for exams once they are back in power.

Announcing the decision, School Education and Literacy Minister S. Madhu Bangarappa explained that until last year, SSLC exams were conducted for a total of 625 marks across six subjects, of which 100 marks were allotted to the third language. Henceforth, with the third language paper being only graded and not considered for the total marks, there will not be a pass or fail system for the third language, and the new total will be 525 for five subjects. However, the third language will be taught, and exams will be conducted as earlier, he said.

The three-language formula has always been deeply contested in non-Hindi-speaking States, more so in States that have had governments led by regional parties. PTI

Most take Hindi

This new rule will apply to third languages such as Hindi (NCERT), Hindi, Kannada, English, Arabic, Urdu, Sanskrit, Konkani, Tulu, and Marathi. However, data for the year 2025-26 shows that 93% of students have taken Hindi as a third language. Of the total 8,07,962 students who have registered themselves for SSLC exams this academic year, 7,52,398 students have Hindi as their third language.

The Minister argued that the move was aimed at easing pressure on students. A large number of students failing in the third language, which is predominantly Hindi in the State Board schools, prompted this decision, he said. Data from 2024-25 shows that of the total 1.64 lakh students who failed the SSLC exam, 1.46 lakh students failed the third language paper.

Mr. Bangarappa argued that given the data, it was evident that students were not comfortable with the third language and it was a burden on them. Grading the paper, instead of scoring it, was another measure to protect the interest of the students, he argued.

He further said several Kannada organisations had threatened to protest over the issue, arguing Hindi was being "imposed" on Kannadigas, and it was adversely affecting the future of the State's students. The Kannada Development Authority and the State Education Policy (SEP) Commission, led by educationist Prof. Sukhadeo Thorat, have also recommended adopting a two-language policy in the State, giving up the current three-language policy, he pointed out.

> The decades-old demand of Kannadigas has been fulfilled. The govt. should fully implement the 2-language formula
>
> **T.A. NARAYANA GOWDA,** President, Karnataka Rakshana Vedike

Grading the third-language paper and not counting it towards the total marks is now seen as a first step towards a two-language policy. After the SEP Commission submitted its report to the State government in 2025, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah voiced his support for adopting a two-language formula in the State. However, the government is yet to implement the SEP report in full.

The contested TLF

The three-language formula (TLF) has always been deeply contested in non-Hindi-speaking States, more so in States that have had governments led by regional parties. However, in recent years, even other States ruled by both Congress and the BJP are fast catching up.

The All India Council for Education recommended the adoption of the TLF in September 1956. The then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and others of the Congress supported the policy to promote a "national link language" which they said would foster national unity. This policy was first adopted in the National Education Policy - 1968 by the Kothari Commission, as per which TLF includes the study of a modern Indian language, preferably one of the Southern languages, apart from Hindi and English, in the Hindi-speaking States, and Hindi along with the regional language and English in the non-Hindi-speaking States. This policy was supposed to promote national integration, multilingual competence, and cultural exchange. NEP-2020 has also emphasised the implementation of TLF.

Activists protesting against Hindi imposition, at Freedom Park in Bengaluru recently. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

However, this policy was strongly opposed by Tamil Nadu, which stuck to a two-language policy of Tamil and English. Likewise, most Hindi-speaking States have not implemented the three-language formula in letter and spirit. Most States do not teach a modern Indian language, like any South Indian language, as their third language. They mostly teach Sanskrit, Urdu, or, in some cases even foreign languages. However, since 1968, the TLF was implemented in the State without any opposition.

Discontent over the formula first arose in the 1970s, but over Sanskrit and not Hindi, in Karnataka. Railing against the prevalence of Sanskrit being chosen as the first language at the high school level, there was a demand for primacy for Kannada in school education, which was addressed during Devraj Urs's tenure by moving Sanskrit into the third language group, from the first language group.

However, this was reversed by his successor R. Gundu Rao, also a Congress Chief Minister, leading to strong opposition. To address this, the government appointed a commission under V.K. Gokak, which recommended that Kannada be mandated as the only first language in the State's education. Demanding its implementation, a large movement led by actor Dr. Rajkumar took off, popularly known as "Gokak Chaluvali" in early 1980s. However, the Gokak Report has never been implemented in full till date.

Between 1968 and 1990, the third language paper carried only 50 marks and was not mandatory to pass. However, over time, 13 marks were fixed as the passing marks. Further, in 1990, with reforms in SSLC exams, the third language became more formalised. The paper was now marked for 100 marks like other subjects, with 35 as the passing marks and it was mandatory. Hindi emerged as the most widely chosen third language due to the availability of teachers, a general bent towards towing the national line, among other reasons.

"After making it mandatory to score at least 35 marks in the Third Language paper, mostly Hindi, there was pressure on the students, and the number of those who failed the exam increased. Among those who failed in the third language, a majority were children from rural areas," observed Prof. Purushottama Bilimale, Chairman, Kannada Development Authority.

Resistance to Hindi

Historically, the Kannada movement has articulated its opposition to Sanskrit, Tamil in southern Karnataka, and English in the context of the medium of instruction in education more than Hindi. However, post 2000s, the Kannada movement has increasingly articulated its stand against "Hindi imposition". It has demanded that banking and other customer services, which are currently offered only in English and Hindi, be made available in Kannada as well.

It has opposed conducting all central recruitment exams only in Hindi and English, thereby giving an undue advantage to Hindi speakers. This led to several central recruitment exams being held in regional languages as well. Even recently, in March, Kannada organisations forced South Western Railways to cancel an exam being held only in Hindi and English.

A ban on dubbing content from other languages into Kannada, imposed to protect the Kannada film industry in 1960s, was opposed on the ground that as a consumer a Kannadiga had the right to consume all content in Kannada only, turning the earlier argument on its head.

An influx of migration from the Hindi-speaking States into Bengaluru post the IT boom of the 1990s has also sharpened this articulation. This is further strengthened by the arguments of southern States being "punished" for population control compared to their northern counterparts, affecting them in tax devolution and the upcoming delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies. Since the BJP is seen as "promoting" Hindi more aggressively than Congress, which was doing so in the early post-independence years, resistance to Hindi has also taken clear political connotations.

Opposition to teaching Hindi in schools also stems from the reluctance of central board schools, that have mushroomed in large numbers especially in urban centres like Bengaluru, in teaching the regional language of the State, Kannada. This has created a large number of local students proficient in Hindi and English, but not in their mother tongue/regional language, drawing the ire of many. After the Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Act, 2022, mandated teaching Kannada as a subject, many of these schools are teaching Kannada as a third language.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has been following a 3-language formula up to class 8 and 2-languages in classes 9 and 10. In these schools usually English (mandatory) and Hindi/Regional languages are the first and second languages. For third languages (till Class 8), often Sanskrit/regional/foreign language are taken. In Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) schools, third language is mandatory till class 8. Formal exams will be conducted by school till class 8. In class 10, second language is board assessed, third language usually discontinued.

DSEL Minister Madhu Bangarappa has argued that the State Board was also adopting a similar approach to the third language, and was not entirely new. "Two-language formula is in force in States like Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. Grading is being given instead of marks for third languages in many States, including central curriculum schools," he pointed out.

However, BJP leaders of the State, including R. Ashok, Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, have not only opposed the government's move to not consider third language for scoring in SSLC exams, but have vowed to bring it back once they come to power.

Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje has also sharply opposed it as an "anti-Hindi" move, prompting Kannada organisations to protest against it. However, interestingly, in Maharashtra, now ruled by the BJP in coalition with a faction of Shiv Sena, a regional Hindutva party, a controversy arose when the government tried to impose a three-language formula at the primary level. Following a backlash, a two-language formula continues there till class 5 and three-language formula later.

"The decades-old demand of Kannadigas has been fulfilled. The government should fully implement the two-language formula. Kannada should be made mandatory as the first language at all levels of education. The licences of private schools that violate this should be cancelled," demanded T.A. Narayana Gowda, president, Karnataka Rakshana Vedike.

However, teachers, parents, and students are confused about the suddenness of the decision. "It is disappointing that the government announced this decision with only five days left for the completion of the SSLC exam. Many students called me about this and questioned whether it is necessary to write the exam since Hindi marks are not considered for the results," said a Hindi teacher of a government school.

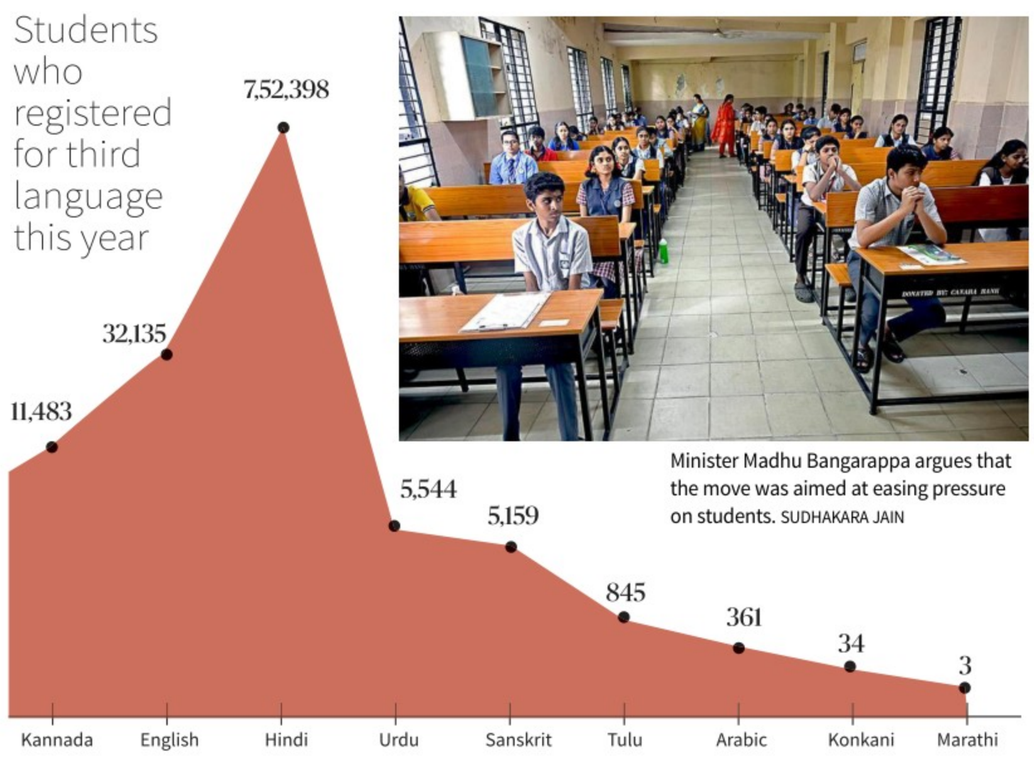
A student who wrote the exam this time said he was surprised and worried when he came to know the grading of Hindi. "I was good at Hindi. Since Maths and Science were a bit difficult, I thought I could score more with Hindi marks. Now I am worried that my SSLC score may come down," he said.

Kannada as third language

There are concerns over what would happen in schools where Kannada is being taught as a third language, especially in 5,800 linguistic minority schools and also those who have opted for Sanskrit as their first language. Data shows there are 11,483 students registered for SSLC exams in 2025-26, with Kannada as their third language, compared to 7.52 lakh students with Hindi as their third language.

With the government now introducing grading for the third language paper, there are concerns that it may hamper Kannada learning of these students.

Mr. Bangarappa said a separate policy will be implemented after discussing with experts to ensure that Kannada does not suffer from any problem due to the inclusion of third languages in grading. What this policy will entail is yet to be articulated by the government.



Minister Madhu Bangarappa argues that the move was aimed at easing pressure on students. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Tarun Tahiliani on his luxury prêt store in Bengaluru and the city's 'global Indian' fashion sense

Beyond labels Tarun Tahiliani does not believe ethnic and western fashion are different. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ethnic by choice

Anagha Maareesha
anagha.maareesha@thehindu.co.in

There has been a divide between 'ethnic' and western fashion in India. "But the way we dress is changing. I don't want to see Indian clothes only at weddings. I felt we needed a new thing," says couturier Tarun Tahiliani.

That is where his luxury prêt label, called OTT, steps in. We are at the Phoenix Mall Of Asia in Bengaluru, where OTT recently opened. Behind us choreographer Prasad Bidapa is prepping models for a runway show later in the evening.

OTT is 'India modern', an aesthetic the designer has been championing for decades now.

India modern

"From the time we started showing in Milan in 2003, we did these western separates which were India inspired. But somehow when you have a store that sells bridals and beautiful embroidery, it gets swallowed. I wanted to focus on that. And that idea became OTT."

The Spring Summer 2026 collection of OTT defines itself as a study in movement, texture, and assured ease. Cocktail saris, easy overlays, casual bottoms and tops make up the collection. Dresses range from sculpted draped numbers to breezy kaftans. The stunning corsets from the collection are the standouts. Fabrics such as crinkled silks, foil jerseys, organzas and knits make the pieces fluid, but structured.

Drape form

Draping used as a structural technique is apparent in the collection. "As I have travelled around India over the last 15-20 years, I have seen styles that are simple and native to one place. The man from Kutch will wear the frill jacket, working women in Mumbai will hitch their saris up. We look at things like that and make a cool skirt. The drape form in India is dying, and we want to keep it alive. That is the genesis of OTT."

The drape skirts in the collection resemble pleats on a sari and can be dressed up or down in different ways.

"I wanted a new way of dressing, a new style, a new ease that different people could wear. You can take a jacket from the collection and wear it on your jeans or over a sarong, sari, lehenga. It is up to you. This idea of Indian separates is old."

He adds how because of social media and the proliferation of fashion, rootedness is lost. "Unfortunately, you can't see quality on social media. A lot of bad quality pieces get made and copied, and because people have seen it on social media, they do not know the difference. In your mother or grandmother's generation, perhaps they were much more knowledgeable about the textile or the embroidery they wore, because they lived a simpler life and were rooted in a certain tradition."

Hailing from Mumbai, but now based in Delhi, Tarun has an appreciation for Bengaluru's sense of style.

"When I did the opening of my store in Richmond Circle I saw a lot of women that night who were dressed so chic. They were very India modern in that sense, wearing a lot of drapes. I think Bengaluru is 'global Indian'."

The OTT- Tarun Tahiliani store is located at Phoenix Mall of Asia, Bellary Road

The rhythm of resilience

Def Leppard's legendary one-armed drummer, Rick Allen, reflects on reinvention, discipline and the enduring pull of rock

On an arm and a prayer Rick rocks the stage. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Amarjot Kaur
amarjot.kaur@thehindu.co.in

Even if your auditory palate does not gravitate towards classic rock music, chances are that you may still have heard of Rick Allen – the legendary one-armed drummer of Def Leppard. I first learnt about his triumphant return to drumming after a tragic car accident through an interview he gave to actor Lynn Redgrave on a weekly BBC special called *Fighting Back* in the early 90s. One line from that conversation has stayed with me. When asked whether it was frustrating to navigate life with one arm, he replied with a calm, understated clarity: "There's always another way to do things."

So, when I engage in a conversation with Rick on March 27 via Zoom call, one day after Def Leppard's maiden performance in India at Shillong – the first stop on the band's three-city tour, including Bengaluru on March 29 – I ask whether he sees himself more as a survivor or simply as a musician, and if that understanding has shifted over the years.

Rick's reply immediately brings back that old interview with Lynn. "Yeah, I call myself a part-time rock star, full-time father, husband, and a philanthropist. Def Leppard is a beautiful vehicle to be able to show that there's always another way to do things."

In many ways, Rick lives that philosophy. His ability to adapt and evolve recalls the roaring success of the band's fourth studio album *Hysteria* in 1987, marking Rick's comeback just three years after the accident. "I didn't have a book of one-armed drummers to see what the rules were. So I had to make the rules. If it inspires people to be the best that they can be, then I feel I've done what I set out to do," he says.

By that measure, Rick – ranked seventh on Gigwise's list of Greatest Drummers of All Time and inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2019 – is known for executing fast and complex double-bass-drum patterns, which can be challenging even for drummers with both hands. He calls this ability "an ancient response". "It was almost like new neural pathways formed, where some of my left hand went to my right hand, some of my left hand went to my legs too. I was able to do things that I never could before my accident," says Rick.

He agrees that losing one arm altered not just his technique but also the way he hears rhythm, and reshaped his musical imagination. "It allowed me to structure things for necessity, so that I could almost imitate what it was like to have two arms again," he adds, vouching for discipline and restraint and crediting the band's producer Mutt Lange's relentless pursuit of perfection.

In a world where everything is instantly visible and constantly consumed, Rick views escapism as rebellion in rock music. "At Def Leppard, what we strive for is to give the experience of escapism, because things feel so heavy these days. When people experience a Def Leppard show, we want them to be in another world."

Celebrating kindness

Conscious choice From a previous edition of the carnival. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Kind Edition of Bangalore Creative Circus's monthly carnival, a celebration of conscious community and local changemakers, will be held this weekend. This month's theme focuses on celebrating ways of living that are kinder to nature, animals, and humanity and will include market stalls, stations, workshops, performances and food focused on this theme.

The central feature of the carnival is a curated market of local brands selling healthy snacks, ice cream, desserts, baked goods, coffee, tisanes, microgreens, millets, cheese, ferments, pickles, personal care, home cleaners, clothing, upcycled accessories and traditional games. Other highlights include leaf printing, cake frosting, tote bag painting, group games, various musical sets, and farm-to-table food.

The event will be held at Bangalore Creative Circus, Yeshwantpur (near Orion Mall / ISKCON) on April 5, between 12 and 7pm. Entry is free and open to all. For more information, log onto blrcreativecircus.com

STEPOUT

Coffee and conversation

A coffee rave featuring radio personality Rohit Barker that blends music, conversations, and coffee in an open-air setting will be held. *At Sattva City, International Airport Road, Chikkajala on April 4, between 8.30am and 12pm. To register, call 96202 15242*

Big bang melody

The finale of the Women's History, Art & Music Festival, a melange of music, stories, and voices from across the country, will be held this weekend. *At the Indian Music Experience Museum, JP Nagar, on April 4 and 5, from 4pm to 9pm, both days. Entry is free and open to all.*

Shamanur family's sway intact in Davangere

It already has an incumbent Minister, an MP, and now a member of the third generation is trying to retain a seat that was represented by his grandfather; bonhomie with the minority community is one of the major contributing factors to the family's successive victories

Girish Pattanashetti
HUBBALLI

Samarth Mallikarjun (centre), Congress candidate for the Davangere South Assembly bypolls, sharing a light moment with friends during campaigning in Davangere. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

An incumbent Minister, a Member of Parliament, and now, a member of the third generation trying to retain a seat represented by his grandfather – that sums up the political influence the Shamanur family wields in Davangere city, once known as "Manchester of Karnataka" owing to the presence of numerous cotton mills.

As the campaigning for the byelection to Davangere South Assembly constituency is picking up, questions are being raised about the Shamanur family's decades-long hold over the constituency and whether it will be able to retain the influence in the absence of "the grand old man", Shamanur Shivashankarappa, whose death has necessitated the bypoll.

Local body election

It was in 1969 that Shivashankarappa's stint with the Congress started. He won the municipal council election in Davangere and subsequently became the president in the next couple of years. After a long stint as treasurer of the State Cognress Committee, Shivashankarappa entered the Assembly for the first time in 1994 from Davangere Assembly Constituency. As he successfully contested the parliamentary election in 1998, his son S.S. Mallikarjun took over and defended the seat in the byelection and then retained it 1999. Shivashankarappa against contested and won it in 2004.

Due to delimitation in 2008, the Davangere Assembly segment lost its existence and got bifurcated into Davangere North and South Assembly constituencies. Ever since then, the Davangere South Assembly constituency has been with the family, with Shivashankarappa winning it in 2008, 2013, 2018, and 2023 successively. He also went on to become a Minister.

For the past three decades, the constituency has been under the control of the Shamanur family, with father winning it six times and son two times.

Post delimitation, the family has also been able to win the other Assembly constituency (Davangere North) twice.

The victory of Prabha Mallikarjun, daughter-in-law of Shivashankarappa and wife of Mr. Mallikarjun in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections points towards the increasing political clout of the family in the region.

Political analysts are of the opinion that the empire built by Shivashankarappa, mainly through educational institutions and industries, through which various philanthropic activities are initiated, and his influence over Lingayat voters as president of Akhila Bharat Veerashaiva Lingayat Mahasabha (a representative body of Lingayat community), have together had considerable electoral impact.

As he headed the mahasabha, Shivashankarappa wielded influence over the members of the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community across the State in general and in particular his constituency, where Lingayats are in sizeable number.

Minorities factor

Importantly, the family's bonhomie with the minorities is one of the major contributing factor to the family's successive victories. However, before every election, there have been voices demanding representation to Muslims.

But every time, the Shamanur family has managed to win over the minorities before the polls, and seems to have done so this time too. Considering the fact that the minorities are the deciding factor in the byelection, BJP leaders are apparently trying to convince them that electing Samarth Mallikarjun (Congress candidate) would mean no representation for the Muslims for the next five decades. Will it work is the moot question.

Bypolls: Yatnal to campaign for BJP nominee in Bagalkot

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal

Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal, expelled BJP leader, announced on Thursday that he will campaign for Veeranna Charantimath, BJP nominee for the Bagalkot bypoll, "to uphold the cause of Hindutva."

However, he will not campaign in Davangere as no one has invited him yet, he told reporters in Bagalkot .

"Despite my expulsion from the BJP, I remain a committed worker and proponent of Hindutva ideology. I may be upset with a few leaders, but not with the party ideology. I am not someone who carries a grudge in my heart about my expulsion. I will not blackmail the party or seek vengeance. I will always be a supporter of Hindutva. Secondly, Mr. Charantimath is my close friend. Thirdly, the ordinary workers of Bagalkot BJP wanted me to join the campaign and here I am," he said.

"I became a MLA on a BJP ticket and I will not betray that party," he said.

He said the BJP and the JD(S) would form the government in 2028 and that there was a likelihood of him rejoining the BJP soon. "The fact is that every BJP worker wants the leadership to take me back," Mr. Yatnal said.

He, however, does not plan to campaign in Davangere South constituency as he has not been invited till now by anyone, he said.

"I am not someone with a big ego who waits for invitations from big leaders. I will join the campaign even if ordinary workers invite me. But if I am not invited, I will not go," he said.

Legislation providing internal quota to Scheduled Castes on hold?

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

It's been over a month since Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot gave his assent to The Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-classification) Bill, 2025. FILE PHOTO

Over a month after Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot gave his assent to The Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-classification) Bill, 2025, that provides for internal reservation among the 101 Scheduled Castes within the 17% SC reservation quota, the State government is yet to gazette the same.

The government is learnt to have put the legislation on hold for now in view of potential legal challenges and also under pressure from those against the current internal reservation matrix.

"It is unlikely that the government would gazette the Act before an agreement is arrived at on the internal reservation among the Dalit Left and the Dalit Right factions," sources told *The Hindu*.

Incidentally, a special Cabinet meeting to arrive at a consensus on internal reservation scheduled on March 27 had to be postponed owing to the Model Code of Conduct for byelections in Bagalkot and Davangere South Assembly constituencies.

Law Department sources acknowledged that legislations are normally published in the gazette immediately after it receives the Governor's assent, following which rules are framed to implement the Act.

The Act can be implemented only after it is published in the gazette.

Clarifications

While the Bill was passed during the Winter Session in Belagavi during December, 2025, the Governor had returned the Bill seeking certain clarifications, which the government provided. The Governor eventually gave his assent on February 28 after the group of Dalit Ministers met him to apprise him of the pressure on the government to initiate recruitment process.

The legislation provides for internal reservation among the Scheduled Castes with the Dalit Left (Madiga) and the Dalit Right (Holeyas) receiving 6% and "touchable" castes of Lambanis, Bhovis, Koramas, and Korachas along 59 nomadic communities receiving 5% within the 17% reservation quota for SCs.

It is learnt that after the Governor's assent, the Act is yet to reach the Social Welfare Department, which has to gazette it. The Department of Law and Parliamentary Affairs is yet to send the legislation after considering various legal aspects involved in the reservation issue, sources said.

"The Law Department has to examine the High Court stay on fresh appointments as per 17% reservation," said another government source.

Legal issues

Currently, multiple cases related to SC reservation are pending in the Karnataka High Court. The increase in reservation quota for SCs from 15% to 17% and for STs from 3% to 7%, which has breached the Supreme Court mandated 50% reservation cap, has been questioned. Besides, the nomadic communities have also gone to court against the government's decision not to provide them a separate category of internal reservation as recommended by the H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission. Currently, the government has grouped nomadic castes in Category C along with relatively better off "touchable" castes.

The legal challenges has also affected the public recruitment, and the government had to face the wrath of the youth recently, forcing it to announce recruitment to 56,432 posts.

According to another source, the government also expects legal challenges to the recruitment process.

"The government wants to kick start recruitment drive with 15% reservation. Though internal reservation has not been notified, the Dalit Left is adamant on it. If the Act comes into force at 17% with internal reservation, there could be legal challenges," sources said.

Making a splash

Beating the heat: With temperatures rising, children having a whale of a time in a swimming pool in Hubballi on Thursday. KIRAN BAKALE

GPs met 89% of tax collection target

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Priyank Kharge

As many as 5,943 gram panchayats across Karnataka have achieved a higher tax collection and revenue realisation in 2025-26 compared to the previous financial year.

The Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj reported a total tax collection of ₹1,382.57 crore in 2025-26, marking an increase of ₹110.04 crore over the ₹1,272.54 crore collected in 2024-25. This turns out to a record 89% realisation of the current demand, the highest in recent years.

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge said Karnataka had previously secured the top position at the national level in tax collection and revenue mobilisation with respect to village panchayats, and the continued upward trend highlights the impact of "efficient administration, strict enforcement of regulations, and strengthened tax collection mechanisms."

In 2024-25, gram panchayats, for the first time in the department's history, collected ₹1,272.54 crore, achieving 80% of the demand.

Building on this momentum, the State has further improved performance in 2025-26, reaching a record 89%, stated an official release.

Raichur performance

Referring to performance by different districts, the Minister noted that Raichur district recorded an exceptional 129% tax collection, while 11 districts achieved over 100% collection.

This achievement has been driven by awareness campaigns, targeted tax collection drives, and efforts of officials at all levels, Mr. Kharge said.

HC declines to quash 11 FIRs in loan fraud case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has refused to quash 11 First Information Reports (FIRs) registered against Mangaluru-based Roshan Saldanha and his associates for allegedly cheating multiple victims of over ₹40 crore under the guise of arranging easy loans.

The allegation show a clear "design made by the accused to hoodwink the complainants" said Justice M. Nagaprasanna while dismissing 11 petitions filed by Roshan, his wife Dafney Neethu D'Souza, and N. Chandrashekar of Chitradurga, an associate of Roshan.

The FIRs were registered on complaints lodged by businessmen and professionals from Mumbai, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Bengaluru, and Kerala.

Similar modus operandi

The alleged modus operandi of Roshan was similar in all cases as he and his agents promised large loans, ranging from ₹6 crore to ₹250 crore, at exceptionally low interest rates of 4-6% per annum.

Victims were then asked to pay 2% of the loan amount as "stamp duty" or "security deposit".

FROM THE COURT

After the money was transferred to designated bank accounts of the accused, often in the names of shell entities like Balaji Enterprises, Akshaya Agency, or Sri Sai Consultants, the accused allegedly went silent or avoided taking calls or made false excuses for delay.

It was argued on behalf of the petitioners that the disputes were purely civil in nature and that criminal law had been set in motion only to recover money. They contended that the complainants should have filed civil suits instead.

Rejecting this argument, the High Court, relying on several verdicts of the Supreme Court, said that the existence of civil remedies does not bar criminal prosecution where the allegations disclose essential ingredients of an offence.

The projection that it is purely a civil transaction and there is no nexus between the amounts deposited into the accounts to which the petitioners/accused have no nexus, are all matter of investigation as it is not one case or one complainant, the court observed.

"In every case the complainants are lured into transactions, money is transferred, and nothing comes about. The matter requires investigation in the least. The accused are said to have hoodwinked several people after luring them into respective transactions. Therefore, there can be no question of interdicting the investigation," the court said.

Applications invited for post of KSOU V-C

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

On the heels of the recent controversy over the Karnataka State Open University (KSOU), co-hosting a conference on Hindutva ideologue Deendayal Upadhyaya, the Karnataka Governor's Secretariat has invited applications for the post of the Vice-Chancellor.

Incumbent Vice-Chancellor Sharanappa V. Halase had defended the event on the campus and had participated in it.

As per the notification issued on Thursday, eligible candidates must have qualifications and experience as per the guidelines of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the KSOU Act-1992. The last date for submission of applications is May 10.

Prof. Halase's tenure ends in June. He had taken charge as Vice-Chancellor on November 22, 2022. His term ended in November, 2025. However, he was given a six-month extension.

Meanwhile, the State government has taken steps to freeze KSOU bank accounts to prevent misuse of funds.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

In Loving Memory of

V. RAMACHANDRAN
26 January 1948 - 2 April 2026
Grandson of M. Subbaraya Aiyer & Son of S. Venkataraman
The strength of his spirit was an inspiration to all around him
Nandini Ramachandran,
Arya Ramachandran, Jiti Nichani
Kamya Ramachandran,
Gautam Shekar, Krishay Shekar & Advay Shekar
Pay your respects between 11 am - 3 pm
Contact: 9900052692

LDF, UDF offer pension, health cover, Metro

Both fronts release manifestos for Kerala polls; UDF 'guarantees' include free bus travel for women, welfare pension hike to ₹3,000 per month, and ₹25 lakh health insurance; LDF backs limitless health cover and pension hike; both promise Metro projects for Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The ruling Left Democratic Front in Kerala and the Opposition United Democratic Front separately offered to improve social welfare schemes for the weaker sections and introduce women-specific projects in their poll manifestos released on Thursday to win the trust of voters.

The two opposing fronts released their manifestos for the 2026 Kerala Assembly election on the same day.

The UDF manifesto was dominated by five guarantees and five dream projects with special emphasis on women. The guarantees of the front include free bus travel for women on buses of the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation, a monthly financial assistance of ₹1,000 each for college-going girl students, an increase in welfare pension to ₹3,000 per month, ₹25 lakh health insurance cover for every household, and interest-free loans up to ₹5 lakh for youth to start their own businesses.

A 'Mission Samudra,' which envisaged integrating the possibilities offered by the State's 600-km coastline, 44 rivers, 34 lakes, four international airports, and high-range areas to elevate Kerala's position in the world's maritime sector, was the highlight of the dream project. The party has repeated its promise to enact legislation to protect the religious rights of Sabarimala devotees, an offer which it had made during the protests following the Supreme Court order permitting the temple entry of women.

Nava Kerala campaign

On its part, the LDF has promised to take forward the Nava Kerala campaign, which covered 950 proposals, if voted back to power.

The second phase of Life Mission 2.0, the housing project for the poor, to make Kerala a no-homeless State, a campaign to eradicate absolute poverty, hiking the welfare pension from ₹2,000 to ₹3,000, transformation of the State into a knowledge society in five years, assured job opportunities for educated youth through campus placements, a 'Back to Campus' scheme for skill enhancement, and interest-free loans for entrepreneurs have found place in the document. The front has outlined plans to identify and lift as many as 5 lakh severely poor families from poverty. The LDF has offered to generate employment for women and provide jobs to 2 million homemakers.

The LDF has also offered to implement a universal health coverage scheme and limitless treatment benefits. Metro Rail found mention in the manifestos of both fronts. While the UDF offered to develop Metro/Light Metro in Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode, the LDF revealed plans to develop Metro Rail projects for the two cities.

What's on offer

Highlights of the manifestos released by Kerala's rival fronts, the UDF and the LDF

UDF

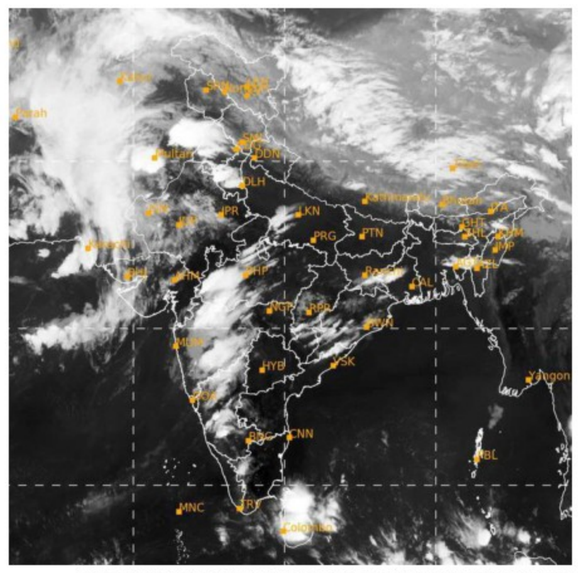
- **For women & students:** Free KSRTC bus travel for women; ₹1,000 monthly stipend for college-going girls
- **Social security:** Increase welfare pensions to ₹3,000/month; provide a ₹25-lakh health insurance cover per family
- **Youth & workers:** Offer interest-free loans up to ₹5 lakh for young entrepreneurs; raise ASHA workers' daily wages
- **Infrastructure:** Launch 'Mission Samudra' for maritime development; expand airport and Metro rail infrastructure

LDF

- **Poverty & housing:** Eradicate absolute poverty, homelessness through programmes like Life Mission 2.0
- **Social security:** Hike welfare pensions to ₹3,000/month; implement a universal health coverage scheme
- **Jobs & skills:** Create jobs for educated youth and 2 million homemakers, supported by skill enhancement
- **Infrastructure:** Develop Metro rail in major cities; expand the Water Metro to new areas

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and Muzaffarabad. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.4	25.3	Kozhikode	—	34.5	27.0
Ahmedabad	—	36.9	24.2	Kurnool	—	38.6	24.8
Aizawl	—	33.7	19.2	Lucknow	—	37.5	20.5
Allahabad	—	40.0	22.6	Madurai	—	38.0	24.1
Bengaluru	—	32.4	20.6	Mangaluru	—	33.8	24.7
Bhopal	4	36.2	21.4	Mumbai	—	31.8	23.1
Bhubaneswar	—	36.8	24.4	Mysuru	—	34.0	20.0
Chandigarh	—	35.7	17.6	New Delhi	—	36.8	18.9
Chennai	—	36.1	25.2	Patna	—	37.5	23.8
Coimbatore	—	37.2	23.6	Port Blair	0.1	32.8	24.2
Dehradun	—	35.3	17.9	Puducherry	—	33.2	24.0
Gangtok	10	22.2	12.8	Pune	32.6	36.2	23.3
Goa	—	34.2	24.7	Raipur	—	37.0	25.9
Guwahati	0.2	33.6	20.5	Ranchi	—	35.8	21.0
Hubballi	—	35.0	21.0	Shillong	—	24.2	14.8
Hyderabad	—	35.4	23.0	Shimla	—	26.8	13.4
Imphal	—	29.3	19.1	Srinagar	—	20.0	8.6
Jaipur	—	36.0	25.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.7	24.4
Kochi	—	32.6	27.4	Tiruchi	—	36.9	23.6
Kohima	20	23.6	13.9	Vijayawada	—	36.0	24.0
Kolkata	—	37.4	26.0	Visakhapatnam	—	33.0	26.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.40	..66	.72	52	...122	
Bengaluru	.17	6	.51	39	...104	
Chennai	...4	5	.40	32	58	
Delhi	.19	102	110	...193	...284	
Hyderabad	.14	..14	.27	99	73	
Kolkata	...8	..44	.31	64	68	
Lucknow	...7	..43	.36	69	...108	
Mumbai	.14	..77	...4	26	88	
Pune	.10	..76	.62	77	...123	
Visakhapatnam	.28	..41	.16	37	...109	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Angul, Odisha recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 303 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 18

Air Quality Code: Poor, Moderate, Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Amendment to FCRA a direct attack on minority institutions, says T.N. CM Stalin

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A day after the Lok Sabha was informed that the Union government did not intend to bring in a Bill to amend the Foreign Contributions (Regulation) Act (FCRA) during the ongoing Budget Session, DMK president and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday said that the Centre was stepping back only due to Opposition protests and the upcoming elections in Kerala.

M.K. Stalin

"Despite stepping back, for now, due to Opposition protests and the upcoming elections in Kerala, where Christians live in large numbers, there are clear plans to push the FCRA [amendment] through a special session of Parliament," Mr. Stalin said in a social media post. He he alleged that the Bill was a "direct attack on Christian NGOs, churches, and other minority institutions."

After attempts to take over Waqf properties, the BJP-led Centre was "now moving to choke foreign funding for other minority institutions," he said and added: "This unjust, arbitrary Bill must be withdrawn in full, and I urge the Hon'ble @PMOIndia to act immediately."

DMK MP Kanimozhi, in a post, said that the Bill's intention was to block foreign funding for NGOs and groups, which help in the development of minority communities.

'Amaravati Bill' gets Rajya Sabha approval

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With the Rajya Sabha passing the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill on Thursday, the decks are cleared for incorporating Amaravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh in the original Act, with effect from June 2, 2024.

Almost all political parties supported the Bill in the Upper House, except for YSR Congress Party MPs, who maintained that the Bill cannot be accepted as it ignores the demands of farmers in the area. In his intervention, Civil Aviation Minister and Telugu Desam Party leader K. Rammohan Naidu said: "This redefines the pride, the faith... the consciousness of the country it has on its democracy, on the leadership and the whole political system also."

INBRIEF

Nilgiri-class *INS Taragiri* to be commissioned today

INS Taragiri, a Nilgiri-class multi-mission stealth guided-missile frigate under Project 17 Alpha, will be commissioned into the Indian Navy on Friday (at the Eastern Naval Command dockyard in Visakhapatnam, in a ceremony presided over by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The Commanding Officer of the ship, Capt. Hemanth, said that this cutting-edge platform is a class of its own. "Not only can they serve as a screen for a 'Carrier Battle Group' or protect the carrier from threats, but they can also undertake special operations on their own," he said.

Eight-month-old boy falls into water sump, dies

An eight-month-old boy died after accidentally falling into a water sump at Gandipet village in Narsingi on Wednesday, police said. The deceased was identified as Sourabh Jadhav.

The incident came into light following a complaint by the child's father, Tejas Srikanth Jadhav, a labourer. Jadhav stated that he, along with his brother and mother, had left home in the morning, leaving his wife Radhika with their infant son. Around 1 p.m., when Jadhav's brother returned home, the noise woke Radhika, who then realised that the child was missing. During a search, the infant was discovered floating in a water sump.

Chittoor youth arrested for murdering woman over loan

The Chittoor Police arrested a youth on the charge of murdering a woman from whom he had borrowed money. According to the police, the accused was addicted to cricket betting and had lost money. When the victim asked the accused to repay the loan, he reportedly decided to kill her. He allegedly slit the victim's throat and disposed of the body in the Jagamarla forest. The accused was remanded in judicial custody.

Salt shaker

Price pinch: A man at work at a salt pan near Ongole in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh on Thursday. While salt production has been high this season in the district, farmers say traders are quoting lower prices citing global uncertainties linked to tensions involving the U.S., Iran and Israel. KOMMURI SRINIVAS

ISRO seeks proposals to analyse data from Aditya-L1 mission

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has released the second Announcement of Opportunity (AO) inviting proposals from the Indian solar physics community for observation time on the Aditya-L1 mission.

The Aditya-L1 is India's first dedicated space-based solar mission and has been making continuous and comprehensive observations of the sun from the sun-earth L1 point.

The proposals must be submitted electronically through the Aditya-L1 Proposal Processing System (ALPPS) hosted at the Indian Space Science Data Centre (ISSDC). The deadline for submission of proposals is April 30, 2026.

A file photo of ISRO's launch vehicle PSLV-C57 rocket carrying Aditya-L1. PTI

Vijay files nomination from Tiruchi East; blames Centre and State for LPG shortage

Nacchinarkkiniyan M.
TIRUCHI

Blaming both the Union and State governments for the ongoing LPG shortage, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) president C. Joseph Vijay on Thursday said the crisis had forced several hotels to close and caused widespread hardship to people.

Addressing a campaign meeting at Marakkadai after filing nomination for the Tiruchi East constituency, his second seat, Mr. Vijay said if the BJP-led Union government had been alert, it could have controlled the problem, and if the DMK-led State government had acted with some urgency, Tamil Nadu could have been better protected. "But Stalin sir would say the State had no role in the issue. Yet, if there is a raid or a problem at his home, he would fly to Delhi. Could he not go to Delhi for this? What happened to the promise of providing ₹100 subsidy per cylinder?" he asked.

"We have a Minister in whose department crores of rupees have been taken as bribes for providing jobs. This has denied employment to qualified persons. If this department alone is involved a ₹1,000-crore scam, imagine the scale [of corruption] in other departments," he remarked, referring to allegations of corruption (made by the Enforcement Directorate) in the Municipal Administration Department.

"They promised to fill lakhs of government vacancies, but these have turned out to be empty assurances," he said urging the electorate to dislodge the "useless DMK government". "We will provide a government that works. Give me a chance in this election to ensure the well being of the State's future," he told the voters. "Many say the Karur incident [stampede at his rally in which 41 people died] itself is a conspiracy," he said.

Telangana rolls out Bhu Bharati portal to ease land registrations

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has decided to introduce the integrated *Bhu Bharati*, land record management information systems, portal in one mandal of each district in the next 45 days.

The government has launched the portal in five mandals - Amangal (Rangareddy), Kosgi (Narayanpet), Vatpalli (Sangareddy), Kusumanchi (Khammam) and Aswaraopet (Bhadradri-Kothagudem) - on a pilot basis on Thursday. Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy formally launched the project in Amangal this afternoon. Operations of the integrated portal would be scaled up to one mandal in each district after testing the efficacy of the portal in the next 45 days. The integrated portal was designed to bring Revenue, Registration and Land Survey wings under one umbrella. It forms part of the reforms ushered in by the State government in the Revenue department - eliminating the scope for middlemen interfering in land transactions. The portal replaces *Dharani* introduced by the previous BRS government.

The new portal, would eliminate the need for the people to frequently visit the registration offices as they could log on to the portal through their smartphones. He criticised the previous government for its failure to address the issue of *sada bainamas* (transactions on plain paper) resulting in pendency of 9.52 lakh applications for regularisation of the transactions.

The Congress government focussed its attention on the complaints pertaining to *Dharani* and took steps to ensure that land under cultivation registered through *sada bainamas* was registered in the name of the occupant, after due verification.

The government took a policy decision to regularise *sada bainamas* in villages that were subsequently merged into municipal areas. This apart, efforts were underway to allot unique identification numbers to all land parcels on the lines of Aadhaar.

A betrayal foretold

After Trump's taunts, threats, Europe has to reimagine its security paradigm

The U.S. appears poised to break with 77 years of partnership with Western European nations under the security umbrella of NATO, especially after its President Donald Trump has said that he is "absolutely" considering withdrawing from the alliance, which in his view is a "paper tiger". This and similar remarks by Mr. Trump have followed White House's apparent frustration that European and other allies did not expediently send military assets into West Asia to assist the U.S. and Israel in their war campaign against Iran, particularly to secure safe passage for oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz, currently under Tehran's control. Mr. Trump has frequently complained about getting less from NATO than Washington was putting into it, saying recently to the media, "... it's a one-way street". He has further hinted that NATO may have become an ineffectual global force when he recently observed that Russian President Vladimir Putin also "knows" that NATO lacks teeth to defend its members – a comment that gains additional salience in the context of Moscow's military aggression against Ukraine and its likely further military adventurism in the Baltic states region.

At the heart of the heightened tension in the U.S.-NATO relationship is Washington's constant refrain that defence spending by its European partners has fallen short of expectations – even if the immediate trigger for talk of withdrawing from NATO is the Iran war context. A prior question of legality remains unanswered too: under section 1250A of the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act, signed into force by former President Joe Biden, no U.S. President may unilaterally withdraw from NATO; rather they would require either a two-thirds Senate supermajority or an act of Congress towards this end. In the longer arc of history spanning the two Trump terms, a split with NATO, a security alliance, might not be of the same order as the eviscerating institutions of global governance and cooperation, which include the WTO and UN system organisations. But it is part of Mr. Trump's simultaneous pursuit of American global dominance and splendid isolation. On the one hand it may come as a relief to some that Mr. Trump's inward turn, pulling the U.S. back from global collaborative engagements could leave a security vacuum that could be opportunistically exploited by middle powers. However, for the world at large, and from a growth and economic stability perspective, the shock of a partner-nation abandoning its commitments worldwide will likely lead to a recalibration of trust and strategic calculus, ultimately remaking the rules-based international order and the global balance of cooperation across emerging powers. In this new post-Pax Americana world, Europe, more than most, will have to reimagine its security paradigm from first principles.

In the running

The Artemis II launch assures the U.S.'s partners that NASA is on track

The sight of the giant rocket bearing the NASA Artemis II mission and its crew of four ascending into the sky in the early hours of April 2 (IST) brought cheers among onlookers on the ground and around the world. The mission has taken many years and several billion dollars to develop and brings the prospect of returning humans to the moon an equally giant step closer. The U.S. and China are currently leading the two poles of an international moonward race. A race implies winners and losers because they are keen to corner precious water deposits and landscapes on the moon and set up functional lunar bases, which could bias future missions in the winner's favour. NASA's Artemis programme and China's International Lunar Research Station are designed to include research outposts, refuelling depots, communication relays, and resource extraction sites, which would give their operators a head-start on any mission that depends on venturing further into cis-lunar space or towards Mars. While the idea of winning and losing is objectionable *vis-à-vis* the celestial commons, which should present equal opportunities to all participants in the global space programme, it is also naive to believe that the race is motivated by the urge to explore the universe. Extending geopolitical borders into space and projecting national prestige have been considerable driving forces of the new Space Age.

China's efforts have been more sheltered and powered predominantly by its own impetus, although they are no less impressive. The U.S., however, has included commercial operators and dozens of other countries via the Artemis Accords. The latter arrangement has made for apparently slower progress but in exchange for greater predictability in future, if and when the Artemis programme succeeds in full and assuming that the U.S. leadership will honour its commitment. India signed the Accords in 2023, thus agreeing to use outer space peacefully, transparently, and interoperably and to share data and resources according to their norms. While India is not an active participant in the Artemis missions in the way that Europe and Japan are, its human spaceflight programme, 'Gaganyaan', is in the works and it also plans to build a space station and take Indians to the moon by 2040. India could thus provide payloads and experiments for future launches, explore joint Artemis-Gaganyaan missions, and co-develop lunar activities under the Accords rather than start from scratch. These are useful benefits. In addition to reassuring the U.S. government that NASA remains in the race to the moon, the Artemis II launch allows the country's partners to look to the next steps.

ECI transfer controversy, top court's clarifications

P.D.T. Achary

Former Secretary General, Lok Sabha

Recently, the Election Commission of India (ECI) transferred a number of senior officers in some of the election-bound States as soon as their election schedules were announced. In the election schedule for 2026, polls are to be held in four States, namely, Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

In the State of West Bengal, the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police – the head of State administration and the head of the police force – were among several officials transferred overnight without the consent or prior knowledge of the State government. The ECI claimed that such a step had been taken to ensure free and fair elections in those States. The States concerned, particularly West Bengal, were virtually stunned by the ferocity of these transfer orders, which have almost paralysed the administration. The crucial question here is whether it is within the powers of the ECI to transfer, in this manner, the heads of State administration in the name of ensuring free and fair elections. Are we then to conclude that, without transferring a handful of top officers, the ECI cannot conduct free and fair elections? There are many such disturbing questions that arise from these transfers.

It is difficult to find any statute under which such transfers can be made by the ECI. Of course, it always points to Article 324 of the Constitution (Superintendence, direction and control of elections to be vested in an Election Commission) to justify such actions. It is true that the Article confers unspecified powers on the ECI to conduct free and fair elections.

Article 324 and scope of powers

The Supreme Court of India had, in *Mohinder Singh Gill and Anr. vs The Chief Election Commissioner, New Delhi and Ors.* (1978), and in a host of other cases, held that Article 324 is a plenary provision which is in fact a reservoir of powers that can be used by the ECI whenever the need arises to ensure free and fair elections. But in all such cases the Court has added a rider that such powers can be used only where the field is unoccupied by a statute. In other words, the ECI cannot draw any such power from Article 324 where a law made by Parliament or a State legislature holds the field in which case it has to obey that law.

In *Mohinder Singh Gill*, the Court made the following significant observations which have clearly laid out the scope of the powers under this Article as well as its limitations. It said, "The Constitution, contemplates a free and fair election and vests comprehensive responsibilities of superintendence, direction and control of the conduct of elections in the Election Commission. This responsibility may cover powers, duties and functions of many sorts, administrative or other, depending on the circumstances".

Article 324 does not give unfettered powers to the Election Commission of India

However, there is a caveat. The Court added, "Two limitations at least are laid on its plenary character in the exercise thereof. Firstly, when Parliament or any State Legislature has made valid law, relating to or in connection with elections, the Commission shall act in conformity with, not in violation of such provisions but where such law is silent Art. 324 is a reservoir of power to, act for the avowed purpose of, not divorced from pushing forward a free and fair election with expedition. Secondly, the Commission shall be responsible to the rule of law, act bona fide and be amenable to the norms of natural justice in so-far as conformance to such canons can reasonably and realistically be required of it as fairplay-in-action in a most important area of the constitutional order, *viz.*, elections."

The issue of statutory backing

The officers belonging to the all India services are governed by the All India Services Act and the rules made thereunder. The transfer of an officer is the exclusive prerogative of the government. The all India service officers who are serving a State government are under the administrative control of the State government which has exclusive authority to transfer them at any time.

Under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, the State Public Services are under the exclusive control of the State governments. It is the exclusive function of the governments – the State and the Union – to deal with all aspects of the services of the officers serving under these governments.

The crucial question that has arisen in the context of the transfer of senior officials of the State governments under the orders of the ECI is whether this action has any statutory backing. The duty of the ECI is to conduct elections in a free and fair manner. Of course, it has all the powers to perform this task in accordance with the mandate of the Constitution and statute.

Article 324(6) requires the State government or the Union government to make available to the ECI on demand the staff required by it to conduct elections. The Representation of the People Act of 1950 as well as the Representation of the People Act, 1951 contain elaborate provisions that deal with the duties and powers of the ECI. Nowhere do any of these Acts contain any provision that empowers the ECI to transfer the head of a state administration or the head of the state police force, while keeping the State government in the dark, on the ground that their continuance in their posts will hamper the conduct of free and fair elections.

It is true that the Court has held that Article 324 has plenary powers to ensure free and fair election. But the Court has never dealt with the transfer of the seniormost officers in States by the ECI, taking the State governments by surprise and resulting in a paralysis of the administration, in the exercise of its plenary powers under Article 324. Apart from that, the Court has itself clarified that if the field is occupied by the law, the ECI needs to obey that law. It may be argued that the law mentioned by the Court must be related to, or in connection with, the election. It may also be argued that the All India Services Act or its rules are not laws relating to elections, but that is a very narrow, technical view.

The crucial point is that the ECI is not empowered to bypass a law made by Parliament dealing with the transfers and postings of all India Service officers, and cannot transfer such officers at will over the heads of the State government. The underlying assumption in such transfers is that those officers will not allow the ECI to conduct elections in a free and fair manner.

On 'unchecked power'

The ECI has a proud history of conducting elections in the country since 1951-52. It has always depended on State government officials to accomplish this task as the ECI does not have any machinery of its own to undertake such a gigantic exercise. The ECI, by branding them as men lacking integrity and removing them from their posts on the eve of an election is a new trend that will most certainly demoralise civil servants in the country. It is also not clear under what procedure the ECI has reached the conclusion that these officers are biased and unsuitable for conducting free and fair elections. Article 324 does not give unfettered powers to the ECI. The Court, which granted plenary powers to the ECI, had also said this in *Mohinder Singh Gill* – "No one is an imperium in imperio in our constitutional order. It is reasonable to hold that the Commissioner cannot defy the law armed by Article 324. Likewise, his functions are subject to the norms of fairness and he cannot act arbitrarily. Unchecked power is alien to our system."

These words from the highest court of the land are loud and clear enough.

A path to peace in West Asia beyond Pakistan talks

Tara Kartha

Former Director, National Security Council Secretariat

A much-talked-about meeting finally took place in Pakistan. The Foreign Ministers of Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Egypt sat together with Pakistan, in Islamabad on March 29, to explore ways out of the war in West Asia. Just before this, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had a long conversation with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. Then, Pakistan Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar was in China to hold talks on restoring peace and stability in West Asia. All this sounds grand but is only a tiny step in a long process, where the devil lies in the details.

Ceasefire requirement

The very first step is to hammer out a ceasefire. That will happen only when both sides – the United States/Israel and Iran – either concede victory or have exhausted themselves to a standstill. In the first regard, it is unclear what the U.S. sees as a 'win,' with U.S. President Donald Trump shifting goals rapidly – from denuclearisation to regime change, and, after a whole rung of leaders in Iran were killed, to an undefined 'surrender'. As of now, it seems that the U.S.'s ultimate objective is to control the Strait of Hormuz, similar to its 'securing' of the Panama Canal.

Similarly, Israel's early call for a people's uprising in Iran after the assassination of their Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei does not stand scrutiny. Any intelligence agency worth its salt would know that any 'uprising' requires a carefully selected group to lead it, either within or outside the country. Moreover, such a move must happen in the first few weeks of war.

Beyond that, any leadership would be hard-pressed to negotiate an end to war in the face of a furious public. It seems, then, that Israel's objective was to decimate, once and for all, Iran's entire capability to strike. That point has not yet been reached, as is clearly apparent. Therefore, Tel Aviv will remain lukewarm toward an end to the war.

India could lead a Global South initiative at the United Nations to mediate the West Asia war

In terms of the subject of 'exhaustion', the U.S., of all sides, witnessed one of the largest non-violent marches in American history. True, the 'No Kings' protest was not specifically against the war, but it still counts politically. Meanwhile, at least two aircraft carriers of the United States have moved out of range, amid reports of munitions shortages. Israel is being hit, regardless of the famed 'Iron Dome' – its air defence system – though the extent is debatable. Iran is bleeding, and badly. Each side has summarily rejected the demands of the other – at least in public.

Second, mediation is a process. The first step is a ceasefire, which is no easy task when there is zero trust. The U.S., after all, attacked Iran even as negotiations were on. Washington, in turn, accused Israel of unilaterally attacking the Pars gas field, causing a serious escalation. In this case, a ceasefire will need a force capable of enforcing it; primarily, only a physical presence can provide security guarantees. That needs a United Nations mandate to be legal in what is an entirely illegal war.

In sum, a UN Security Council (UNSC) member will have to vote for a peacekeeping force that can act in case of transgressions. That is farcical, even assuming that the U.S. would heed a despised UN.

Revisiting history

There is, however, a way out. In the 1956 Suez Crisis, when Egypt nationalised the Suez Canal, France and the United Kingdom blocked UNSC action. The General Assembly passed the 'Uniting for Peace' resolution which authorised peacekeepers in a rare move that bypassed the UNSC. It brought peace, but only because a U.S. President, in this case Dwight D. Eisenhower, twisted allies' arms. In sum, the UN only works when a strong country decides it should

Third is the question of troop contributors. Presumably, that will include Egypt, Türkiye and Pakistan, all with large standing armies. Egypt recognises Israel, and Türkiye is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Pakistan may consider a token presence rather than having to honour its Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement with Saudi Arabia, which was signed in 2025. Mr. Dar's visit to China yielded only a five-point peace plan, which also called for the delivery of humanitarian aid. This will require some presence of aid agencies, presumably under UN cover.

Primarily, China is expected to persuade Iran to accept a ceasefire, though 'persuasion' will require something more concrete than a plan. A direct security commitment is out of the question. No one wants a third world war. Other countries, such as Indonesia and Malaysia – both of whom support the Pakistani initiative – may weigh in, with the whole effort funded by the Gulf countries.

So far, so good. But Iran does not entirely trust the mediators. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are allegedly pushing the Americans to attack Iran and 'finish the job. In 2024, the Pakistanis bombed Iran, and Türkiye's Kurdish problem has Iranian tentacles.

A role for New Delhi

India had best keep out of such dubious ventures, though it should talk to all sides to prevent escalation. While China is an unlikely partner in this, there is also Australia, the Southeast Asian countries and India's neighbours, all of whom have been hit hard by the energy crisis.

This might be the time for Indian diplomacy to fire up and rally the 'Global South' at the UN, fostering a united opposition to the war and pushing for a lasting ceasefire. A global voice must be heard, not just through a single channel, no matter how busy. That might just be the impetus that the UN needs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The end of Naxalism

Inclusive development must remain the focus in areas freed from the grip of Naxalism. The current conducive environment presents a significant opportunity to ensure overall development and progress.

The responsibility of the Home Ministry is now twofold. It must ensure that Naxals and Maoists do not get a chance to regroup, while also supporting the advancement of tribal communities. There must be a close watch on those who have surrendered and laid down arms. The Home Minister could have avoided engaging in a blame game.

Balasubramaniam Pavani,
Secunderabad

The moment of elation should not let us slip into complacency and efforts should be made to augment the development processes in Naxal-infested areas with vigour. The emphasis must be on tribal development to stave off a recrudescence of this problem.

Ravi Mathur,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Words outlast the war

U.S. President Donald Trump's first prime-time address on 'Operation Epic Fury' — threatening to return Iran to the "stone ages" and destroy its electricity grid — has raised concerns beyond its immediate military context. Delivered 33 days into a war that has already pushed oil above $100 per barrel and unsettled allied capitals, the speech offered escalation where clarity was needed. His simultaneous threat to withdraw the U.S. from NATO compounds the damage. Responsible wartime leadership demands linguistic precision no less than military precision. The world is listening, and markets have already responded.

Gopalaswamy J.,
Chennai

Parties and freebies

As election campaigning gathers steam in the State of Tamil Nadu, the major political parties are outdoing each other by making extravagant promises. Needless to say, these manifestos often read as distorted carbon copies of one another, offering everything from free cooking oil to electronic devices, primarily targeting resource-poor voters. It is well established that these consumer "freebies" are not only poor economic policy but also lead to large Budget deficits and fiscal imprudence. Moreover, these handouts, though legal, have not significantly transformed the lives of the very people they are supposed to uplift, as they foster a culture of dependence on public resources. Thus, these promises represent a loss of "economic opportunity" for precious resources that could have been utilised for education and infrastructure. Every major party is guilty of such practices, and as a voter, I find it difficult to discern any meaningful difference in their plans for the welfare of the State or the country.

G. Parameswaran,
Coimbatore

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Has cinema defined political success in Tamil Nadu?

PARLEY

A. S. Panneerselvan
Director General, Chennai Institute of Journalism

Srinivasan Ramani
Deputy National Editor of The Hindu

With election campaigns in Tamil Nadu in full swing, one development drawing sharp attention is the political debut of film actor Vijay. He comes from a long line of figures in the State who have transitioned from cinema to politics. Stalwarts such as C. N. Annadurai, the founder of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), and former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi deeply influenced Tamil cinema, using it as a medium to propagate ideas of social reform. Similarly, M. G. Ramachandran (MGR), and J. Jayalalithaa of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) were matinee idols who became future Chief Ministers of the State. But how effective has cinema been in guaranteeing success in politics? A. S. Panneerselvan and Srinivasan Ramani discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Bhagavathi Sampath K. J**. Edited excerpts:

What were the conditions that led to the emergence of a figure such as Vijay in T.N.?

A.S. Panneerselvan: Ever since the formation of the AIADMK in 1972, there has consistently been a space for a non-DMK political force. This segment typically ranges between 15% and 18% of the vote share. Initially, this space was occupied by the Congress. It was later taken over by Vaiko with his Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK). After the MDMK, this space shifted to Vijayakanth's Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK). Following the decline of the DMDK, it has fragmented across formations such as the Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK) and personalities like Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan. Therefore, this is not a new phenomenon – it is constant. There is a steady vote bank of people who do not prefer the two Dravidian majors and instead opt for an alternative. However, this vote share has not translated into electoral success.

Srinivasan Ramani: If you look at the composition of the crowds Vijay is drawing, they are largely youth-driven. There exists a section of Tamil society that has not been sufficiently politicised, and they are transferring their political loyalties to a cinematic figure by equating his on-screen roles with real-life leadership. At the same time, there is another figure from cinema – director Seeman – who leads the NTK. Unlike Vijay, Seeman represents a clear ideological space rooted in Tamil nationalism, in contrast to the Dravidian framework. He is actively attempting to build an ideological base. In contrast, Vijay's appeal appears less ideological and more rooted in heroism. This is concerning because it risks creating an apolitical base – one that is not encouraged to question societal issues. Instead, it promotes a messianic image of leadership.

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam chief Vijay waves to supporters from atop a vehicle during a campaign rally in Tiruchi on April 2. VENGADESH R.

What explains the culture of hero worship and the transition of film stars into politics in Tamil Nadu? How did the Dravidian movement shape cinema as a medium?

ASP: Tamil cinema before the Dravidian movement largely followed two tracks. One was the Bhakti tradition, where devotional literature was adapted into films. The other was the nationalist track, with films inspired by the Indian freedom movement. These films carried strong social markers. Dialogue delivery often reflected caste and regional identities. The Dravidian movement transformed this by creating a more standardised, secular Tamil prose that removed such embedded social markers. Another key shift was in media control. Earlier, the media was dominated by socially privileged groups. The Dravidian movement had to create its own media platforms. It used theatre and cinema as vehicles for political messaging. Importantly, Dravidian leaders did not enter politics through cinema; rather, they brought their politics into cinema. They embedded political messages within films.

This is why it is incorrect to compare MGR and Vijay. MGR operated within a highly politicised public sphere and used cinema to reinforce political ideology, benefiting both the movement and his personal image. Vijay, on the other hand, operates in a depoliticised public sphere and focuses primarily on constructing a personal image. MGR's appeal was broad and inclusive, cutting across demographics. In contrast, Vijay's appeal appears more limited.

> At best, cinema provides a certain degree of recognition – but attempting to directly convert that recognition into political capital, without deeper engagement, is often misguided
> A. S. PANNEERSELVAN

Do you think that with the arrival of progressive directors, Tamil cinema has begun to focus on people who might otherwise not have received attention in mainstream cinema such as the Dalits?

SR: Contemporary Tamil cinema reflects two parallel trends. On the one hand, there are mass heroes attempting to leverage political themes to build their personal image. On the other hand, there is a strong current of independent filmmakers engaging deeply with social and political issues. Directors like Pa. Ranjith, Vetrimaaran, Mari Selvaraj, Tamizh and others are addressing themes such as caste oppression, custodial violence, communal tensions, and religious marginalisation. These films often push political discourse forward and compel mainstream politics to respond. Tamil cinema today contains both a progressive, politically engaged stream and an apolitical, personality-driven stream.

ASP: Cinema has also evolved in form. Early Tamil cinema relied heavily on orality – dialogues and speeches – because literacy levels were low, and people primarily engaged through listening. As literacy and media exposure increased, cinematic forms evolved. However, Vijay's films neither fully utilise the earlier oral political style nor engage with newer forms of political storytelling. Instead, they resemble the "Angry Young Man" template popularised decades ago. While Vijay undeniably has substantial popularity, the key question is whether it cuts across all demographics.

SR: Publicity should not be mistaken for public-mindedness. Public-mindedness involves addressing difficult societal questions and creating collective solutions. Publicity, on the other hand, often relies on projecting a single heroic figure as the solution to all problems.

Why is Tamil Nadu particularly conducive to film actors entering politics?

ASP: Many assume that a career in cinema naturally provides a pathway into politics. However, this assumption overlooks the historical trajectories of key figures. Annadurai had already moved away from cinema by the early 1950s and was deeply engaged in political organisation. MGR, before founding the AIADMK, had a long and active political career within the DMK. Jayalalithaa, too, entered politics after establishing herself through writing and public engagement in magazines such as *Thuglak* and *Kumudam*. In all these cases, political success was built on sustained groundwork and organisational involvement, not merely on popularity from cinema. At best, cinema provides a certain degree of recognition – but attempting to directly convert that recognition into political capital, without deeper engagement, is often misguided.

While the successes of Annadurai, MGR, and Jayalalithaa are frequently highlighted, we do not, in the same breath, discuss the unsuccessful political trajectories of figures such as Sivaji Ganesan and Bhagyaraj.

SR: There is this Gramscian approach: if you don't have the power to change things directly, you try to occupy the ideological state apparatus and then mould opinions. The Dravidian movement managed to use popular culture significantly to bring about social change. So, it's not as if popular culture itself resulted in change; rather, the Dravidian activists and movement utilised that space to bring about change. Now, people think that cinema is a change-maker in Tamil Nadu. That's not the case. Cinema was a 'via media' to achieve that.

In other places where changes happened, different mediums were used – student movements, or agitation politics. But in Tamil Nadu, cinema was used as a powerful medium to bring about change. Because of this, people take a shortcut and assume that cinema itself can be used similarly elsewhere and will work in the same way. If one asks why Tamil Nadu is so different compared to the rest of the country – where we now see increasing penetration of Hindutva – that is because there is also a civil society component that is autonomous from political society, which raises these questions just as much as political actors do. That's where the role of filmmakers and directors comes in.

They have kept critical discourse alive to an extent such that the burden does not fall solely on political parties to resist dominant ideologies.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
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NOTEBOOK

The long and lingering shadow of war

Even after a ceasefire is declared, the effects of violent conflict take years to heal

Meera Srinivasan

Early this year, a new report from the United Nation's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on conflict-related sexual violence in Sri Lanka, during and after the civil war put the spotlight on one of its most traumatic consequences. Many survivors of the conflict that ended in 2009 continue to suffer "chronic physical injuries, infertility, psychological breakdowns, and suicidal thoughts", it noted.

Reporting from the island nation has repeatedly taught me that a war cannot be simply put behind us. It lives in the bodies and minds of survivors, and resurfaces in the memories they fight every day while trying hard to heal.

As we struggle to keep up with daily headlines about the U.S. and Israel's illegal war on Iran, and Iran's retaliatory strikes, one thing is certain: nearly the entire world is fervently waiting for news of the end of the war.

The stakes are high for so many of us – from migrant workers stuck in the Gulf, to families unable to afford fuel or LPG, to cash-strapped governments abruptly hiking electricity tariffs, everyone is hoping for quick relief from a war launched at the whim of two power-hungry men.

Over a month old now, the ongoing conflict in West Asia which began with the U.S.-Israel combine's airstrikes on Iran on February 28, 2026, is one of many wars of our times.

In February this year, the war in Ukraine, triggered by Russia's invasion in 2022, entered its fifth year. For more than two years now, Israel has not stopped killing Palestinians in Gaza – the death toll has reportedly crossed 75,000 – while Israeli settlers persist with their violent attacks in West Bank. Additionally, Sudan, over two and a half years into its conflict, is staring at a staggering humanitarian catastrophe, with an estimated 33.7 million people requiring assistance this year.

Updates from a live war naturally draw our attention. They are dramatic and urgent, for they are about life and death. When ruthless leaders mistake their power for a licence to kill, the world becomes a truly dangerous place, forcing even those of us far away to nervously track updates.

The ongoing wars must stop. The urgency is even greater when we recognise that the end of a war on the battlefield is only the beginning of a long, painful, challenging, and often messy, process of recovery. The death tolls, in which real people are reduced to cold numbers, don't capture the extent of destruction or the lasting impact of the violence.

Next month, Sri Lanka will mark 17 years since its civil war, between the state armed forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), ended.

The island nation endured this war for nearly three decades. The Tamils, who bore the brunt of the war, especially in the island's north and east, often say that the war may be over, but the conflict is not. It manifests in the grief and trauma that won't go away, in the struggle to retrieve their lands from the military, in their ongoing search for forcibly disappeared loved ones, the fight for survival in a battered economy, and their fears of facing a future they can't seem to build on their own terms. In the life of a refugee, rendered stateless and robbed of dignity, war is not an occurrence of the past, it is a running theme of the present. Survivors may be grateful to be alive but must contend with being treated as lesser citizens in their own country, or worse, made to feel like lesser humans.

My predecessors in Colombo started covering Sri Lanka's civil war in the 1980s. Forty years later, I haven't stopped covering it.

Suntharam Anojan, an artist from the northern Mullaitivu district of Sri Lanka – the site of the final battle where tens of thousands of Tamil civilians were killed – said this in a recent interview to *The Hindu*: "I see my life in two phases – before the war and after the war."

That is what a war does, it alters life permanently. It leaves a trail of devastation, and the aftermath haunts its survivors for long. War is no video game.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A journey gone wrong

Deadly remains: Members of the Andhra Pradesh Forensic Science Laboratory collect samples from the private bus which was involved in a gruesome accident at the Rayavaram village near Markapuram in Andhra Pradesh on March 26. The bus had veered off its course and hit a tipper, the impact of which led to a fuel leak that instantly ignited. Fourteen people were burnt alive inside the bus while 29 were left injured. KOMMURI SRINIVAS

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 3, 1976

Asian telecom. highway project

New Delhi, April 2: The Asian Telecom Highway, a 14-nation prestigious project, extending from Iran to Indonesia, is likely to be completed before 1977-78.

The immediate beneficiaries of the project would be the developing countries in the region. Its early completion is also expected to benefit directly the proposed non-aligned-pool of about 30 news agencies.

Another helpful development in this regard is the expected early adoption of the approved text of the constitution of the Asia Pacific Telecommunity, the parent body of the 530 million Asian Telecom Highway Project.

India has pledged its full support to the Asian Pacific Telecommunity and its constitution is expected later this year at a meeting of the Economic and Social Council for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP).

Experts in the Communications Ministry here envisage that the Asia Pacific Telecommunity would help in evolving reasonably low tariffs both for ordinary and press telegrams and cables within the area. The Telecommunity would eventually link the region with the world network.

Steps to ensure a reasonably viable transmission medium are considered to be a pre-requisite for the successful functioning of the proposed pool of non-aligned news agencies.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 3, 1926

Himbury mission

London, April 1: Good news for Lancashire has been brought back by Mr. Himbury at the conclusion of his tour in India and Africa, for investigating cotton growing. He expressed the opinion that the time was approaching when the needs of Lancashire will be met from the Empire. He pays a tribute to the excellent progress of experimental plantation in the Punjab for cultivating improved varieties and is of opinion that the outlook in the Sudan is very bright. He anticipates in the next three or four years, Sudan will produce a quarter million bales of Egyptian and American cotton.

From Page One

'Gherao of officers a challenge to SC', says CJI

"Even in court orders, the politics is reflected... We passed the order deploying judicial officers because we thought we could have a neutral structure for the adjudication of objections, and this is how people are behaving? Do you think we are not aware who are the miscreants behind this incident? I was monitoring events till 2 a.m.," Chief Justice Kant said.

Justice Joymalya Bagchi said political leaders who form part of the executive of the State and leaders in the Opposition must condemn the incident in one voice. "The orders of the judicial officers are deemed to be the orders of this court. This incident sought to scuttle the entire effort, discourage judicial officers... It amounts to contempt of court," Justice Bagchi remarked.

The court directed the Election Commission (EC) to assign the Central Bureau of Investigation or National Investigation Agency with the task to probe the incident. It directed the Commission to requisition Central forces to protect the life, liberty and families of the judicial officers.

The Bench narrated that the Registrar General of the Calcutta High Court had informed the local police and civil administration for immediate backup on learning about the gherao. "The matter was met with conspicuous inertia until approximately 8:30 p.m.," it said. The official had then contacted the Home Secretary, the Director General of Police (DGP) and the Chief Justice of the High Court. Finally, the High Court Chief Justice had to intervene personally, following which the Home Secretary and the DGP had turned up at his residence at midnight.

The Bench directed the DGP, Malda District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police to show cause why suitable action should not be taken against them. The Bench scheduled the case for hearing on April 6.

Governor is bound by Cabinet's advice: HC

The Constitution Bench in 1980 decision comprised Justices V.R. Krishna Iyer, Y.V. Chandrachud, P.N. Bhagwati, Syed Murtaza Fazalali and A.D. Koshal.

Mr. Jinnah also said, the 1980 judgment delivered in Maru Ramu's case was followed by the Supreme Court in 2022 too while ordering the release of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi assassination case convict A.G. Perarivalan. He also relied upon Supreme Court's 1974 verdict in Shamsher Singh versus State of Punjab.

After concurring with his submission, the Full Bench said, the top court had consistently held the Governor could not exercise any discretion while exercising powers under Article 161 of the Constitution and it had been reflected even in its recent decision on the Governor's power to withhold Bills passed by the State legislature.

One of the Division Benches of the High Court had rightly followed the law, while the other Bench had wrongly relied upon the Supreme Court's judgment in the 2003 M.P. Special Police Establishment case which was related to the Governor's statutory function of granting sanction to prosecute Ministers in corruption cases.

The Full Bench further pointed out the Supreme Court had delivered its verdict in A.G. Perarivalan's case only after considering the M.P. Special Police Establishment case.

"Therefore, it is clear that the ruling (by one of the Division Benches of the High Court) in Murugan alias Thirumalai Murugan is *per incuriam* (a judgement passed without taking the correct position of law into consideration) to the limited extent that it holds that the ruling in M.P. Special Police Establishment permits the Governor to act in his own discretion in exercise of powers under Article 161 of the Constitution," the Bench led by Justice Chandira concluded.

Iran fires missiles at Israel, Gulf states

Less than a half-hour after the President was done, Israel said its military was also working to intercept incoming missiles. Sirens sounded in Bahrain, home to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, immediately after the speech.

Attacks continued across Iran on Thursday, with strikes reported in multiple cities.

More than 1,900 people have been killed in Iran during the war, while 19 have been reported dead in Israel. More than two dozen people have died in Gulf states and the occupied West Bank, while 13 U.S. service members have been killed.

Manufacturing slows to 45-month low in March

According to Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, firms seem to currently be absorbing a large part of the increase in input costs, keeping output prices "relatively contained".

On a positive note, the report said that Indian manufacturers in March 2026 saw the strongest expansion in external sales since last September, with gains seen from customers in Australia, Brazil, Canada, mainland China, Europe, Japan, West Asia, Türkiye and Vietnam.

BJP planning to impose President's Rule: Mamata

After Malda violence, Chief Minister asks people not to fall into the 'trap' of riots; she blames the poll panel for 'failing to protect' judicial officers who were gheraoed by a mob at a BDO office

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

A day after a mob gheraoed seven judicial officers in Malda district of West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday urged people not to resort to violence, and said the Bharatiya Janata Party's "game plan" is to impose President's Rule in the State.

"Nobody informed me about the incident in Malda yesterday. I got to know [about it] from a journalist. The Chief Secretary has not called me till today," Ms. Banerjee said while addressing a public meeting.

Seven judicial officers were gheraoed at a Block Development Office at Mothabari in Malda district on Wednesday. The officials were rescued late on Wednesday night by a huge contingent of police and security forces.

"The Election Commission (EC) has deleted 1.2 crore names. The game plan of the BJP is to impose President's Rule in the State. Do not fall into the trap, do not obstruct judges," the Trinamool Congress chairperson said.

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee with the Trinamool Congress candidate during an election campaign in Malda on Thursday. ANI

She told the people that if they did not want the State to be ruled by the BJP, they should not resort to violence.

Ms. Banerjee, who held public meetings at Sagardighi and Suti in Murshidabad district, asked people not to fall into the "BJP's trap" of riots.

She blamed the poll panel for "failing to protect" the judicial officers. "I have no powers left today. This is the fault of the EC, it could not protect judges," she said.

'Attempt to defame'

The Chief Minister expressed disappointment over the incident, and said there was an attempt to defame West Bengal.

"Everything was ruined by that one incident. I don't know who did this, but it was definitely planned. Now they are trying to cancel the election. They are saying that the State's election system is bad just because of this one incident," she said.

The Supreme Court on Thursday came down heavily on the West Bengal government for failing to ensure protection to the judges engaged in special intensive revision work.

About 60 lakh cases are under adjudication which are being dealt by the judicial officers. About 40% of cases under adjudication have been rejected, resulting in anger and anguish among the people.

EC asks NIA to probe violence in Malda district

KOLKATA

The Election Commission (EC) on Thursday asked the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to investigate the violence in Malda district of West Bengal, where seven judicial officers were gheraoed by a mob on Wednesday. The NIA has to submit the report to the Supreme Court.

'Lawlessness in Bengal,' alleges BJP after Malda violence

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

Party MP Bansuri Swaraj says the incident amounted to 'crushing of democracy'

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday targeted the Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal following the Supreme Court's observations on the forcible confinement of seven judicial officers, who were allegedly kept without food for more than seven hours at a government office in Malda on Wednesday.

Terming it an unprecedented episode in the history of Independent India, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said "jungle raj" was prevailing in the State under Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

At a press conference, he said the Supreme Court held a mirror to Ms. Banerjee's government.

"No one could have imagined that lawlessness under Mamata Banerjee's government would escalate to such an extent that Trinamool supporters would actually take judicial officers hostage... ," Mr. Bhatia alleged.

He said that after the judicial officers were able to leave the place late at night, stones were thrown on their vehicles.

He alleged that Ms. Banerjee was opposing the special intensive revision (SIR) process as the Rohingya were her priority. "If you are incapable of maintaining law and order, then it would be in the best interest of West Bengal for you to resign," he said.

He added that people had decided to oust her in the election.

'Democracy crushed'

BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj on Thursday said the incident amounted to "crushing of democracy". She urged Parliament to send a strong message and called upon the Union government to ensure that "such anarchy is not tolerated" .

Ms. Swaraj also maintained that the special intensive revision of electoral rolls was "not a political exercise but a constitutional necessity".

Govt. confirms extra sittings to debate amendments to women's reservation Act

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Budget Session of Parliament went into a short recess to be reconvened on April 16, instead of the original schedule of ending on Thursday. It will now end on April 18. In the two extended sitting of two days, Parliament will take up amendments to the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, popularly known as the women's reservation Act, 2023.

'Promise to women'

"The government will propose that the House be adjourned, and we will meet very soon, for a specific period, for purposes already known to members," Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju speaks in the Rajya Sabha during the second part of the Budget Session of Parliament on Thursday. ANI

Though he did not spell out that the session is being extended to debate the amendments to the women's reservation Act, 2023, which seeks to provide 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and Assemblies, he said, "The Parliament of India has made a promise to the women of this country. We have a bounden duty to fulfil that commitment."

Repeated demands

The Minister's clarification came amid repeated demands from the Congress for clarity on whether the Budget Session would formally end on April 2, 2026.

Soon after the House met for the day, Congress Chief Whip Jairam Ramesh sought an explanation on media reports suggesting that the session would be extended. Leader of the House J.P. Nadda said the government would "get back" to him.

Mr. Ramesh raised the issue again shortly before the Rajya Sabha took up discussion on the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Bill at 1 p.m.

He argued that uncertainty over the House's schedule was detrimental to parliamentary functioning and transparency. He also said Congress president and Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge had written to Mr. Rijiju seeking an all-party meeting after the election campaign or polling concluded on April 29. Accusing the government of pushing legislation during the operation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for electoral gain, Mr. Ramesh said the move was "wholly objectionable" and reiterated that all Opposition parties were seeking wider consultation.

Responding, Mr. Rijiju said the government had already shared its proposed legislative agenda with Opposition members and that extensive consultations had been held.

He said an important sitting was planned in the next two to three weeks and that nearly 80% of political parties had participated in consultations.

The Congress, he added, was the only party that had not engaged with the government.

India leads 16-nation maritime initiative

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

With the West Asia conflict entering its fifth week and disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz triggering economic and energy instability, the Indian Navy on Thursday flagged off *INS Sunayna* as the Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR, reinforcing its commitment to regional maritime security and cooperation.

The offshore patrol vessel, carrying Indian Navy personnel along with representatives from 16 foreign countries, was flagged off by Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth in the presence of Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi at Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.

Admiral Tripathi said maritime competition was no longer limited to oil and energy but was expanding to critical domains such as rare earth elements, minerals, fishing grounds and data. He noted that the global order was witnessing increasing friction, with the maritime domain emerging as a primary arena of contestation.

He flagged rising challenges including illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, deep-sea research activities encroaching on sovereign rights, and growing threats from piracy, armed robbery and narco-trafficking.

During the deployment, the IOS SAGAR will undertake port calls at Colombo, Phuket, Jakarta, Singapore, Chittagong, Yangon and Male before concluding at Kochi.

CAPF Bill passed in LS amid Opposition walkout

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Armed Police Force (General Administration) Bill, 2026 was passed by a voice vote in the Lok Sabha as the Opposition walked out due to the absence of Home Minister Amit Shah in the Lower House on Thursday.

Mr. Shah is campaigning for the Assembly election in West Bengal.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, who was in Assam for election campaigning, said that he and his party firmly stood behind the officers of the paramilitary forces. "When our government comes, we will ensure justice for you 100%," Mr. Gandhi said on X.

Mr. Gandhi alleged it was unfair that officers of the paramilitary force never got to head their own organisation. "I wanted to speak on the CAPF Bill in the House but the government brought it in a day when I was touring election-bound Assam," he said.

Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said the legislation would bring administrative clarity and was not against the interests of the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) officers and would ensure promotion and financial benefits for the cadre.

Opposition MPs asks the government to refer the Bill to a Joint Parliamentary Committee

He said that Group A officers of CAPFs get minimum four promotions in their career and the promotions were delayed due to court cases.

Opposition MPs, including those from the Congress, Samajwadi Party and Trinamool Congress, asked the government to refer the Bill to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) for deliberations.

Trinamool Congress member Mahua Moitra moved an amendment to the Bill, and sought that it be sent to the select committee for greater scrutiny.

Congress MP Manickam Tagore questioned the absence of Mr. Shah even though the Bill "directly impacts the future, promotions, and dignity" of CAPF personnel. "When it comes to taking credit for controlling left-wing extremism, he is front and centre – quick to claim success and pat his own back. But when it comes to defending a controversial law affecting the very forces who fought that battle, he is missing from the Lok Sabha," he said on X.

Through the Bill, in CAPFs, 50% of the total posts in the rank of Inspector-General, at least 67% in the rank of Additional Director-General and all in the ranks of Special Director-General and Director-General shall be filled by Indian Police Service officers on deputation.

Rahul urges PM Modi to withdraw cases

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging the Union government to review and withdraw criminal cases filed against Dalit and Adivasi youth following the nationwide protests on April 2, 2018 against the dilution of the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Mr. Gandhi posted his April 1 letter on his social media handle.

In his letter, the Opposition leader said the protests were triggered by a judicial pronouncement that diluted provisions of the law meant to protect Dalits and Adivasis from discrimination and violence.

Recalling that 14 Dalit youth had died during the protests, Mr. Gandhi said many others were arrested and continue to face criminal charges. "Many of them are first-generation learners, and the pending cases have adversely affected their futures," he said.

APPEAL

Ms. Arifa Khatun, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, UHID NO. 13705439, 10 years is Diagnosed suffering from Thalassemia Major. She has a potential matched donor & requires stem cell transplant as curative therapy. The Estimated cost of the transplant is Approximately is Rs.20, 00,000/-

Please send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O **Fav. Save Poor Lives A/c Arifa khatun**, Our A/c Details: **S/B A/c No. 20000913487**. S.B.I. R.A. Puram, IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855. Please Donate by G-pay No.9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi. Donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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ASSEMBLY POLLS

'Miyas' will be game-changers in Assam: Owaisi

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi on Thursday said that "Miya" Muslims will be the game-changers in the April 9 election to the 126-member Assam Assembly. Addressing a rally for the minority-based All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) at Laharighat in central Assam's Morigaon district, he said he foresaw a "community tsunami" in favour of the party-led by the perfume baron and former MP, Mohammed Badruddin Ajmal.

"I can see all Miyas uniting to change everyone's game. They will be the game-changers on April 9 by voting for 'lock and key [AIUDF symbol]'," he told the crowd, asking them to vote out Asif Mohammed Nazar, the Congress candidate, from the constituency.

Miyas will be game-changers on April 9 by voting for the AIUDF, says Asaduddin Owaisi.

CPI(M) alleges censorship of its speech by AIR

The CPI(M) has complained to Assam's Chief Electoral Officer against All India Radio and Doordarshan for deleting large portions of its written speech, critical of the anti-people policies of the BJP-led government in the State.

Suprakash Talukdar, the Assam State Committee secretary of the CPI(M), said the two broadcast media arms of Prasar Bharati resorted to "brazen censorship" in the name of vetting. He said that the party submitted its written speech to the Guwahati AIR and Doordarshan centres on March 29, fully adhering to the Election Commission of India's guidelines.

"This is nothing but an attempt to silence dissent and shield those in power from criticism," the party said, condemning the censorship.

"Corruption is a way of life in the present administration. Drug abuse, particularly among school children, is a matter of concern in Puducherry

MUKUL WASNIK
Congress leader

Odisha unit of BJP joins Bengal poll campaign

As the campaign for West Bengal Assembly polls gains momentum, the Odisha unit of the BJP has deployed close to 50 State leaders, including Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, to garner support for the party. Mr. Majhi was present during the filing of nominations by several BJP candidates on Thursday.

"I can assure the people of Assam that the entire road network in the State will resemble that of America in the next three years

NITIN GADKARI
BJP leader

Amit Shah, Suvendu Adhikari, and Samik Bhattacharya in Bhabanipur on Thursday. ANI

Bhabanipur is the shortcut to 'poribortan' in Bengal: Shah

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Stepping up the electoral challenge against Trinamool Congress chairperson and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in her constituency at Bhabanipur, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday joined Bharatiya Janata Party leader Suvendu Adhikari before the latter filed his nomination from the constituency.

Addressing a gathering of BJP supporters before Mr. Adhikari submitted the papers to contest in the Assembly election, Mr. Shah said that the "shortcut" to bring about *poribortan* (change) in West Bengal passes through the Bhabanipur segment.

The Union Minister said that Mr. Adhikari wanted to contest from Nandigram. "I told him, not just Nandigram. You have to enter Mamata Banerjee's home turf and defeat her there," Mr. Shah said.

The BJP leader recalled that despite returning to power in 2021, Ms. Banerjee lost in Nandigram to Mr. Adhikari.

"She formed the government in Bengal, but she lost in Nandigram to Suvendu Adhikari. This time, she will lose not only in the entire State, but in Bhabanipur too," the Minister said, while urging the electorate of Bhabanipur that for the "liberation of the entire State, ensure a massive victory for our candidate Suvendu Adhikari".

Call for political change

Mr. Shah said for ushering in a political change in the State, the BJP would have to win 170 seats out of a total 294 to form the government with a comfortable majority, but a victory for Mr. Adhikari in Bhabanipur alone would automatically bring change to the State's politics.

After defecting from the Trinamool Congress in 2020, Mr. Adhikari has emerged as the tallest leader of the BJP in West Bengal and the party has taken the gamble of fielding him from Nandigram and Bhabanipur. Mr. Shah turned the filing of the nomination papers by Mr. Adhikari and three other BJP candidates into a high-voltage political spectacle by accompanying them for the submission.

The Minister said that he will be staying in West Bengal for 15 days during the Assembly election. The roadshow for nomination began from Hazra crossing amid heavy security and moved through the heart of Bhabanipur, not far from the residence of the Chief Minister.

Tense situation

The situation turned volatile when the BJP rally reached near Ms. Banerjee's residence. The supporters of the Trinamool Congress and BJP confronted and shouted slogans at each other.

Bhabanipur has emerged as a prestige fight for both the Trinamool Congress and the BJP. Ms. Banerjee has claimed that names of 40,000 electors have been deleted from the constituency during the SIR process. There are eight wards in Bhabanipur and the BJP had led by 1,468 votes in that ward in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. The BJP was leading in five wards of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation while the Trinamool Congress led in three wards.

The Chief Minister, who is busy campaigning across the State, has given the responsibility of managing the Assembly seat to key party leaders like Subarata Bakshi, Firhad Hakim and Javed Khan. The constituency will go to the polls in the second phase on April 29.

When campaign gathers national and global vibes on north Kerala coast

On the stump for the United Democratic Front, senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal has to defend the Congress's partnership with the Left outside Kerala, while maintaining the traditional rivalry in State; he says the real Left in Kerala is with Congress, and its leaders consider Rahul their leader

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Varghese K. George
KOZHIKODE

For K.C. Venugopal, it is "work from home" in Kerala these days, where he is part of the Congress high command one moment and the field command in the State the next.

On Wednesday morning, he remotely coordinated the Opposition's parliamentary strategy to stall the Centre's proposed changes to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) rules – a hot-button issue among Christian churches in the State – before hitting the campaign trail as early as 7 a.m. The 63-year-old led a foot march in Kuttiyadi town in north Kerala, where a Congress worker's house was attacked recently allegedly by workers of the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

For the Kerala Assembly election, two rival alliances of multiple anti-BJP parties – the Congress-led United Democratic Front and the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front – have renewed their traditional fight. KCV, as he is called, has to defend the Congress's partnership with the Left elsewhere, while maintaining the rivalry in the State.

Global linkages

It is not just regional issues, but also national and even international politics that influence public opinion in Kerala.

Mr. Venugopal's next stop is Koyilandy on the Arabian Sea shore, from where the Strait of Hormuz and New Delhi are roughly the same distance. The Jews, the Arabs, and the Europeans landed on these shores for trade millennia ago; within earshot of the beach Vasco da Gama landed in 1498 and found that the Christian community was already well established in Kerala.

Fisherfolk's concerns

"The Strait of Hormuz is closed because the U.S. and Israel started a completely unjustified war. The Narendra Modi government took the side of the aggressors, and people are paying the price. Fishers need kerosene to run their boats and earn their livelihood," Mr. Venugopal told a convention in a fishers' village.

"Fishers are the only people who work without an assured wage. I once went to the high seas with you, and after the entire night, all the catch was no more than a handful of mackerel," he told his audience, introducing the local party candidate who lost the 2021 election by a whisker. "He will do what it takes to ensure that you are not alone. But let me tell you, this is not an election to elect an MLA; this is an election to unseat [Chief Minister] Pinarayi Vijayan, who is behaving like a king and treating the people as subjects," he said, quickly pivoting to the core theme of the Congress campaign in the State. "People are fed up of the arrogance, intolerance, and corruption under Pinarayi," he said.

Poll hustle: K.C. Venugopal has covered all 14 districts of the State and addressed 60 meetings already, while also addressing grievances and managing party leaders and candidates. S.K. MOHAN

'The real Left'

Back in the car, he elaborated. "The real Left in Kerala is with the Congress this time, and they consider Rahul Gandhi their leader. On any given issue, it is Rahul Gandhi and the Congress that take the side of the people, and the genuine Left people are turning to us in this election," he said. There are at least six candidates being fielded by the UDF in this election who parted ways with the CPI(M) in recent months. "Pinarayi represents the interests of big money and corporations, and is working in tandem with [Prime Minister] Narendra Modi to damage the Congress," he said.

The spine of the Congress campaign in Kerala is that the CPI(M) has a tacit understanding with the BJP, and that the Congress is the real Left. Asked about the CPI(M)'s allegation that the Congress battle against the BJP was half-hearted, he shot back. "The BJP has filed 36 cases against Rahul Gandhi; the ED [Enforcement Directorate] held him for so-called questioning for 56 hours. Our bank accounts were frozen during the last parliamentary election. Does all this look stage-managed to you?"

Mr. Venugopal has covered all 14 districts of the State and addressed 60 meetings already, but such events are only a small portion of his day. He still has to lend his ear to grievances that pour in from around the country, and call the random party leader who is sulking at not getting ticket and the candidate who is taking it too easy. There is little time for niceties, and instructions are brusque. "Everyone knows that what I say is in their interest too," he said, and party functionaries have become used to his style now.

In the event of the Congress winning the election, there are multiple aspirants for the top post. Does he too aspire to be Chief Minister? "Being or not being an aspirant does not make a difference for anyone. We do not have a CM candidate and our focus is clear – the victory of the UDF. For what follows, we have clearly established precedents and we shall follow that," he said.

Amit Shah pats BJP-AGP for rhino conservation

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday patted the alliance of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) for ejecting encroachers from the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve and protecting the one-horned rhino.

Addressing a rally in central Assam's Kaliabor for AGP candidate Keshab Mahanta, he slammed the Congress for failing to check infiltration and develop the State.

Mr. Shah said the Modi government had signed more than 20 peace accords with extremist groups in Assam and brought over 10,000 insurgents to the mainstream.

"What did the Congress do? It opened Assam to infiltrators," the Home Minister said, insisting that the BJP was against the infiltrators, but not against Assam's indigenous Muslims.

He said the Congress handed large swathes of Kaziranga National Park over to these infiltrators. "The BJP-AGP government cleared encroachment in Kaziranga and protected the rhinos, Assam's pride, and boosted tourism," he added.

Congress promises ST status for six communities in Assam manifesto

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

In its manifesto for the April 9 Assembly election in the State, the Congress has promised Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for six communities, the formation of an Anti-Corruption Commission to probe scams by the Himanta Biswa Sarma government, a White Paper on Assam's financial condition, and an Urban Flood Mitigation Plan.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, State party president Gaurav Gogoi, and other senior leaders released the "*Raijor Istahar* (people's manifesto)" at Bokajan in eastern Assam on Thursday.

"Based on inputs from the people of Assam, the manifesto outlines practical and realistic plans aimed at bringing genuine transformation to the State. It is not merely a set of promises; it is an assurance of guaranteed implementation," Mr. Gogoi said.

The manifesto outlines 28 commitments, including five guarantees announced by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge earlier. These include justice for the late Zubeen Garg, ₹50,000 each for women to start a small business, and land rights for 10 lakh indigenous peoples.

Lok Sabha Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, along with Congress leaders Jitendra Singh and Gaurav Gogoi, during a public meeting at Sarihajan in Karbi Anglong on Thursday. ANI

In the manifesto, Congress has committed to completing five key tasks within the first 100 days of forming a government to build public trust, followed by institution-building within a year and structural transformation within five years.

Key commitments

The key tasks include the publication of a White Paper on Assam's financial condition; the formation of an Anti-Corruption Commission; guaranteed annual grants and accountability dashboards for Panchayati Raj institutions; police reforms and fast-track courts for corruption, land, and women-related cases; decentralised, and performance-linked governance with public reporting; and universal healthcare and 100% school enrolment.

Among the commitments is the contentious issue of granting ST status to six communities - Adivasis ("Tea Tribes"), Chutias, Koch-Rajbongshis, Mataks, Morans, and Tai-Ahoms. According to the Congress, these communities were let down by the BJP-led government.

The commitments include the rehabilitation of displaced tribal communities; free hostel and educational facilities for children of widowed mothers; priority for widows in housing, ration, and healthcare schemes; welfare boards for gig workers, auto, e-rickshaw, and taxi drivers; reduction of Assam's debt burden; revival of the tea industry with optimum wages and benefits for plantation workers; and a climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable State.

The manifesto promises a Zubeen Garg Fellowship for the youth in cultural fields and an associated Centre of Excellence for Art and Culture. It also promises a mandatory weekly off day for police personnel, an Advocates' Welfare Fund for lawyers and legal workers, and subsidised land for accredited journalists.

"Monopoly and control of media by influential political families or business groups will be curbed," the manifesto says.

Himanta is the 'most corrupt CM' in the nation: Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday claimed Prime Minister Narendra Modi was being controlled by United States President Donald Trump.

Addressing rallies in poll-bound Assam's Karbi Anglong and Jorhat districts, he called Himanta Biswa Sarma the "most corrupt" Chief Minister of the country.

Mr. Gandhi said the Prime Minister capitulated to the U.S. for the recent trade deal. "First, he opened India's agricultural system for American farmers. No Prime Minister did it before. Soybean, lentils, fruit, cotton - Modi opened all of these for American farmers," he said.

Mr. Gandhi attacked the "most corrupt" Mr. Sarma, who he said possessed "mini-Narendra Modi" traits. He said corruption was the reason why the Prime Minister and Home Minister Amit Shah "control" Mr. Sarma.

He said Mr. Modi, Mr. Shah, and Mr. Sarma opened a "land ATM" in Assam to give "18,000 bighas of your land to Adani, 13,000 bighas to Ambani, and 60,000 bighas to Patanjali".

INBRIEF

Chhattisgarh HC convicts Amit Jogi in murder case

The Chhattisgarh High Court on Thursday convicted Amit Jogi - the son of former Chief Minister, the late Ajit Jogi - in a 2003 murder case, giving him three weeks to surrender. The case pertains to the killing of businessman-politician Ramavatar Jaggi in Raipur at a time when Ajit Jogi was the sitting Chief Minister of the State. In 2007, 28 people were convicted in the case by a special CBI court, but Mr. Amit Jogi was acquitted as he was given the benefit of the doubt. In 2011, the CBI approached the High Court challenging the acquittal, but the appeal was rejected by the HC on grounds of delay; then moved to the Supreme Court, which referred the case back to the High Court.

GE delivers sixth engine for Tejas LCA-Mk1A fighter jets

Engine manufacturer General Electric (GE) Aerospace on April 2 announced delivery of the sixth of the F404-IN20 engine to Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) for the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk1A. GE Aerospace is to deliver 99 F404-IN20 engines to HAL. "GE Aerospace has handed over the sixth F404-IN20 engine against the order from 2021," said a GE Aerospace spokesperson. A HAL spokesperson told *The Hindu*, "The sixth F404-IN20 engine was handed over in the U.S., and it will be brought here through freight." The spokesperson did not specify when the engine would arrive in India considering the ongoing crises in West Asia.

India can help in bringing peace, says Anand Sharma

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister and Congress leader Anand Sharma on Thursday appreciated India's diplomatic and skilful handling of the West Asia crisis and urged it to be the leader of the Global South in de-escalating the hostilities in the region. In a statement, Mr. Sharma said the international community could not remain a "mute spectator" to the collapse of the rules-based multilateral order and global crisis-management mechanisms.

"Indian diplomatic handling of the crisis has been mature and skilful, avoiding potential minefields," he said.

India, he said, had historically commanded respect for its moral authority and commitment to peace and must use that standing to bring countries together.

"India must endeavour to mobilise the Global South and strategic partner countries to collectively work for restoration of peace and order," he said.

Describing the situation in West Asia as a major global upheaval, Mr. Sharma said the conflict had triggered severe economic disruption and heightened global uncertainty.

Education Ministry notifies NCERT as deemed university

The Ministry's notification enables the NCERT to offer courses and grant degrees; it directs the education body to begin doctoral programmes

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Education Ministry has issued a notification declaring the National Council for Educational Research and Training, or NCERT, an institution deemed to be a university, enabling it to offer courses or programmes and grant degrees.

In the notification dated March 30, the Ministry said that the University Grants Commission (UGC) had approved the expert panel's recommendations to grant deemed university status to the NCERT – a nodal school curriculum body – in January, following which the Ministry notified the grant of status to the council.

The notification confers the status on the NCERT, along with its six regional institutes, provided that a list of conditions is met.

These conditions prevent the NCERT from indulging in any activities that are "commercial" and "profit-making" in nature, and mandate that all academic courses or programmes must conform to the norms and standards prescribed by the UGC and the concerned statutory bodies or councils. The notification mandates the NCERT to start programmes and off-campus or on offshore campuses "only in accordance with the norms and guidelines issued by the UGC, from time to time, on the subject."

The Ministry has said the NCERT "shall take appropriate steps" to begin research and doctoral programmes, and "innovative academic programmes" and the institute must not confine itself to the new emerging areas, but also "endeavour" to expand into other domains that are in accordance with UGC regulations and the National Education Policy of 2020. The Ministry said the NCERT must take all the measures required to get its academic programmes and courses rated for accreditation by the National Board of Accreditation, and for the institute itself by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council.

NCERT upgrade

The new status empowers the council to design academic programmes and expand its role from a curriculum body to a higher education and research institution

- It must comply with UGC norms, avoid commercial/ profit-driven activities, and follow strict guidelines for new or offshore campuses
- It must expand into research and innovative academic areas while securing accreditation from NAAC and programme ratings from the National Board of Accreditation

SC calls sand mining mafia the 'modern dacoits of Chambal'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said the sand mining mafia, who carry "better weapons than the police" and kill those who come in their way with impunity, were the "modern dacoits" of Chambal.

The oral observation from a Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta was in response to an oft-repeated submission from the Madhya Pradesh government that sand miners plumbing the depths of the Chambal river and devastating the fragile lotic ecosystem of the National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary were no lightweights and had superior firepower.

Officers killed by mafia

"So, the State government has thrown in the towel. It is an extremely sad state of affairs if the State government says we cannot defend our natural resources. Dacoity, as we knew it traditionally, is of the past. Now these are the modern dacoits, these mining mafias," Justice Mehta remarked.

The *amicus curiae*, senior advocate Nikhil Goel, said at least 1,000 trucks of sand were mined in a day from the region. The trucks pass by police stations, and sand miners carry better arms.

"Look at the number of Sub-Divisional Magistrates, police and forest officers killed by the mining mafia... But the State has forgotten that there is a law called preventive detention," Justice Mehta said.

The Bench stayed a Rajasthan notification of March 9 issued under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 which altered the boundaries of the National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary, freeing from restrictions 732 hectares of land on both sides of the Chambal river. Justice Mehta said the notification was issued without following the parameters of law. Mr. Goel said that some of the villages in the area are dependent on sand mining.

From files to algorithms, experts discuss digital governance issues

Siddhi Nawar
CHENNAI

What does the future look like when governance, technology and careers collide? At *The Hindu* and SRM Institute of Science and Technology Future Career Conversations Series held on Thursday, the answers were both exciting and intriguing.

Moderated by Kunal Shankar, Deputy Business Editor at *The Hindu*, the session brought together voices from governance, law and technology to unpack a rapidly shifting landscape.

"We've come to a stage where all our land records are digitised," said Atulya Misra, State Information Commissioner, Tamil Nadu, pointing to the scale of digitalisation.

Artificial intelligence, he noted, may assist in delivering preliminary judgments, with human intervention stepping in where it matters most.

Santhosh Babu, Atulya Misra, Murali Sundaram, P. Sree Sudha, and Kunal Shankar at the event on Thursday. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

"Is it possible for you to imagine a situation where no one visits a government office," asked Santhosh Babu, Principal Secretary and MD, KITFRA, Kerala government. For him, the promise of generative AI is simple, "The idea is to free time for people." In an age defined by immediacy, he argued, governance must evolve to match the expectations of a generation that lives "by the minute, by the second." Seamless services, like something as routine as generating a marriage certificate, are no longer just aspirational, but they are expected instantaneously.

Highlighting the legal aspect, P. Sree Sudha, Dean, SRM School of Law, said that in India, data localisation norms and cybersecurity regulations are beginning to take shape. The implication for students, she noted, is clear: the future will demand not just domain knowledge, but also adaptability.

For Murali Sundaram, senior technology consultant, head, Special Interest Group for AI, IIT Madras Research Park, the takeaway for the young was direct. "You and you alone can do it for yourself," he said. With technology entering a phase of abundance, the real differentiator will be the ability to solve problems, he said.

As supply chain vulnerabilities rise, experts press for energy security

Siddhi Nawar
CHENNAI

As global fault lines deepen and old alliances shift, policymakers are being forced to rethink strategy in real time. At a panel discussion on "Policy Frameworks in Times of Geopolitical Uncertainty", held as part of the Future Career Conversations Series, experts unpacked how energy, geopolitics and foreign policy were increasingly intertwined in shaping the global order.

Moderated by Stanly Johny, International Affairs Editor at *The Hindu*, the session brought together Air Marshal M. Matheswaran (retd.), Commodore R.S. Vasan (retd.), and veteran journalist Nayanima Basu.

Air Marshal M. Matheswaran (retd.), Commodore R.S. Vasan (retd.), Nayanima Basu and Stanly Johny at a discussion. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

A key thread running through the discussion was energy security. With India importing nearly 85% of its oil, panellists noted that vulnerabilities have only intensified since the Ukraine war, which disrupted established supply chains and altered global energy flows. The conversation pointed to a larger strategic shift, where control over energy resources is closely tied to global influence.

Oil supremacy

Air Marshal Matheswaran, former Deputy Chief of the Integrated Defence Staff, and founder-chairman, The Peninsula Foundation, placed the concept of oil supremacy in a broader context, arguing that no superpower remains dominant indefinitely. Commodore Vasan, director-general of the Chennai Centre for China Studies and regional director at National Maritime Foundation, Tamil Nadu, pointed out the lack of continuity in policy approaches, especially under leaderships that rely on rapid shifts and tactical decisions.

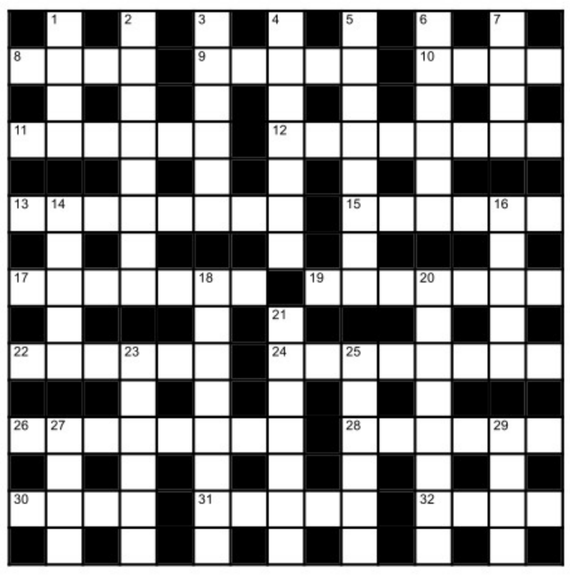
Author and journalist Nayanima Basu brought the focus closer to home, arguing that India's immediate neighbourhood has undergone significant changes that are often under-acknowledged. Across the discussion, one idea remained constant: energy remains the lifeline of modern economies, and disruptions in supply chains will continue to shape geopolitical tensions in the years ahead.

TH CROSSWORD + 14758

(set by Afterdark)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Travel with graduate (4)
9 Man in deserted Warangal, procures 1000 creatures, snail perhaps (5)
10 Done with 6 deliveries (4)
11 Basically thoughtless mistake leads to panic (6)
12 Victor, bad adult at New York hides an evil act (8)
13 Thug in Furness (8)
15 American singer's lines on virginity, say (6)
17 Counterpart, very short, loses edge chasing old ball (7)
19 Enforcement Directorate seizes currency at engineer's business (7)
22 Offer by them, after one in the same place (6)
24 Record by new cycle right away (8)
26 Harry then cuts a tree (8)
28 Young working class Scot invites trouble, gets arrested (6)
30 Say, equipment at hospital gets current provided in opposite direction (2-2)
31 Piece of furniture in resto, old to maintain (5)
32 Van Dyke will hide this (4)

Down

1 Nominate some from enamellers (4)
2 Mix reagents and separate (8)
3 Answer verbally, not entirely with twist (6)
4 Building revamped spending millions as charge (7)
5 CSK pulls batter to provide safety gear (8)
6 Say, Britisher Wade eliminates diwan essentially for a hairstyling cream (6)
7 Withdraw from network consuming time ultimately (4)
14 Dish available in Muridke, Babylonia (5)
16 Heads off to Erode to participate in a contest (5)
18 Say, the Zealot is primarily enamoured by Polish (8)
20 In peacetimes, morning is spent preparing for carefully planned military operation (3,5)
21 Female leaves party to get a balm (7)
23 Its somehow used in Duke Institute leading laboratory for getting extract (6)
25 Can heartless gal empathise at the beginning giving gooseflesh (6)
27 Mop hall first and ventilate (4)
29 Say, Mahabharata is a constant in Eastern colleges (4)

SUDOKU

				5			1	2
8	4			1				
9					8	3		
	7	3				6		
1				7				9
		8				4	7	
		9	6					8
				9			2	6
6	2			3				

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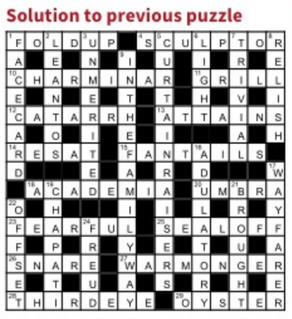
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	8	7	9	2	4	5	1	6
5	1	2	6	3	7	8	4	9
4	9	6	5	1	8	3	2	7
7	6	1	2	8	3	4	9	5
9	3	8	4	5	6	1	7	2
2	4	5	7	9	1	6	3	8
1	7	3	8	6	9	2	5	4
8	2	9	3	4	5	7	6	1
6	5	4	1	7	2	9	8	3

FAITH

Jesus' aim: reconciliation

There was a time when people questioned betrayal. Seated at the foot of a cross, many have asked, 'How could priests of a temple betray Jesus? How could they use temple money to pay for a betrayal?' In today's world are people giving less importance to sin, which is the single-most cause of modern-day spiritual malaise? This illness is what separates us from God and all the good that He has in store for us, not only in this world, but for eternity.

Sin is real and very much alive and of supreme relevance to God. Jesus suffered humiliation and pain on the cross, in order to redeem and reconcile a sinful people to God, said W.J. Samuel. Only after the removal of sin from our lives can we have a relationship with God. This was Jesus' mission in life: to reconcile the created with the Creator.

When Jesus looked down from upon the cross, it was a tableau of indifferent people: soldiers were busy casting dice to decide who will take His robe. And then there were people who had humiliated Him and those who held Him in low esteem. Many of them there thought He accounted for nothing.

Jesus did not get angry but was filled with love. He could not kneel, could not fold His hands in prayer, but He opened His mouth and prayed for such people. He prayed to God to forgive them, for if the Lord did not forgive them, they would die in their sins and be lost for all eternity. Jesus came in love to prevent that loss; it was to reconcile, not condemn these people who did not know any better. He sought forgiveness for them, saying, 'They know not what they do.'

INBRIEF

Emcure halves Novo Nordisk's weight reduction drug price

Emcure Pharmaceuticals Ltd. said it will cut the price of weight management drug Poviztra (semaglutide injection), effective April 3 to boost accessibility. The starting dose of Poviztra (0.25 mg) will now be available at ₹3,999 per month (inclusive of taxes), a reduction of 55% from the previous price of ₹8,790, Emcure said. Poviztra is the second brand of Novo Nordisk's semaglutide injection for obesity and will be distributed and commercialized by Emcure Pharma in India.

IRDAI asks insurers to comply with norms on dark patterns

Insurance regulator IRDAI has advised insurers offering products on e-platforms to carry out a self-assessment on the status of compliance with the Guidelines on Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns and submit a report in 15 days. "Wherever non-compliance is found, an action plan with timelines for removing dark patterns has to be submitted in one month," IRDAI said. Dark patterns are user-interface designs that manipulate consumers into unintended actions.

FY26 indirect tax mop up past estimate of ₹15.52 lakh crore

The government has marginally exceeded the indirect tax collection target for fiscal 2025-26, an official said on Thursday. The total indirect tax collection, which includes customs, excise and GST, as per Revised Estimates (RE) was pegged at over ₹15.52 lakh crore for FY26. "Overall, GST plus non-GST collection came in at 101.2% of RE," the official said. However, the collection from health and national security cess, levied on pan masala manufacturing, missed the target. PTI

'Must get preferential access under U.S. trade deal as agreed'

April 2 marks 1 year since Trump announced 'Liberation Day' tariffs and sparked off a year of trade volatility for India and several other countries

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

As one year lapses of U.S. President Donald Trump's 'Liberation Day' tariff announcement, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said India and the U.S. continue to have a "very robust and deep" strategic partnership and India's current stance was it should receive preferential market access to the U.S. compared with its competitors as was agreed to in the joint statement between the two countries.

The 'Liberation Day' tariffs were announced on April 2, 2025. Under these, Indian exports to the U.S. would have attracted a tariff of 26%. Over the last year, however, a lot had changed: the tariffs were

Piyush Goyal

paused, reinstated, hiked to 50%, reduced again to 25%, promised to be reduced to 18% post a trade deal, invalidated by the U.S. Supreme Court, and then temporarily set at 10% for all countries.

"India's approach is that we should get preferential market access, as was agreed to in the joint statement [in February 2026] as compared to our competitors," he told reporters here.

Trade deal in limbo

Former Director General of Foreign Trade and founder of the think-tank Global Trade Research Institute Ajay Srivastava said the U.S. Supreme Court's decision should encourage India to revisit the deal.

Sources in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said that the ball was currently in the U.S.' court.

"They are the ones under the deadline, not us," an official explained.

"We are clear. If they finally arrive at a tariff system where we get preferential access, then we are ready to talk again regarding the trade deal."

Govt. axes duty on 40 petchem items

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

The Union government has provided full Customs Duty exemption for about 40 petrochemical products till June 30 in view of the ongoing conflict in West Asia.

An April 1 notification listed 40 items, including polypropelene, polystyrene, polyols , poly butadiene, styrene butadiene and anhydrous ammonia.

"This measure has been taken as a temporary and targeted relief to ensure continued availability of critical petrochemical inputs for domestic industry, reduce cost pressures on downstream sectors, and safeguard supply stability in the country," as per an official statement.

The measure will benefit a wide range of sectors, including plastics and pharmaceuticals.

Sanjay Mangal, Member at the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), said the revenue loss would be about ₹1,800 crore for the next three

The Centre is likely to forgo ₹1,800 crore in revenue.

months. Cautioning the dynamics were constantly evolving and estimates based on past trends, he said, "While we are looking at the losses, we must note this is on the basis of past trends and considering the present dynamics of crude, exact revenue [foregone] impact cannot be calculated in that manner."

According to Anil Reddy Vennam, SVP, All India Plastic Manufacturers Association, almost 25% of input for the plastic industry was imported, mainly from West Asia. With the exemption of the 8.5% import duty, the industry should see some relief.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	73,320	0.25
US Dollar	93.18	-----
Brent oil	107.40	-----

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1834.20	-8.30
Adani Ports	1377.60	-7.80
Apollo Hosp	7317.50	12.00
Asian Paints	2169.00	-56.80
Axis Bank	1197.90	4.80
Bajaj Auto	8758.50	-137.00
Bajaj Finserv	1640.70	-6.30
Bajaj Finance	826.85	9.55
Bharat Elec	421.60	2.90
Bharti Airtel	1789.70	7.80
Cipla	1192.40	-3.50
Coal India	449.35	-0.05
Dr Reddys Lab	1217.30	7.70
Eicher Motors	6649.50	-176.00
Eternal Ltd.	231.72	-4.80
Grasim Ind	2564.10	-28.70
HCL Tech	1402.20	47.80
HDFC Bank	750.90	8.65
HDFC Life	566.10	-6.85
Hindalco	916.25	11.65
Hind Unilever	2065.30	0.60
ICICI Bank	1215.80	3.10
IntGlobeAvi	4193.50	12.70
Infosys	1300.80	25.10
ITC	292.85	1.15
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	229.48	-2.45
JSW Steel	1141.30	0.90
Kotak Bank	358.00	1.95
L&T	3613.10	5.60
M&M	3011.70	-19.80
Maruti Suzuki	12631.00	122.00
Max Healthcare	944.60	-14.30
NestleIndia	1191.30	10.50
NTPC	359.65	-5.00
ONGC	287.20	-0.85
PowerGrid Corp	289.95	-2.85
Reliance Ind	1350.50	-18.70
SBI Life	1774.00	-16.50
State Bank	1018.40	0.60
Shriram Finance Ltd.	891.60	-8.95
Sun Pharma	1693.60	-34.90
TataConsumerProduct	1042.00	18.20
Tata Steel	194.14	-0.46
TCS	2450.70	42.50
Tech Mahindra	1441.50	37.00
Titan	4097.20	31.70
Tata Motors PV	303.30	0.35
Trent Ltd.	3550.60	24.10
UltraTech Cement	10620.00	-94.00
Wipro	194.91	3.73

Captive coal output up 10.2% in 2025-26

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Coal production from captive and commercial mines increased 10.2% in the financial year 2025-26 to 210.46 million tonnes on a year-on-year basis, the Centre said. Also, dispatches from captive and commercial mines rose 7.35% to scale 204.61 MT.

The Centre said 12 captive and commercial coal blocks were operationalised via mine opening permission in FY2025-26.

Steel price increase hits MSMEs

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

A sharp 15% increase in the prices of steel in the last two months has hit the engineering sector, especially Micro, Small and Medium-scale Enterprises (MSMEs).

President of the Coimbatore District Small Industries Association (CODISSIA) Karthikeyan Mounaguruswamy said output slid 30 % in the district MSME cluster. "On an average, steel constitutes almost 60% of a component's production cost. Coimbatore consumes over one million tonne of steel a year. Hence, the impact is huge. MSMEs are reluctant to take up new orders." It is estimated MSMEs in India consume 8.3 million tonne steel. There are also additional levies on special steel products, he added.

Pankaj Chadha, chairman, EEPC India, said the total import duty on steel was almost 20%. "There have been five price hikes in the last two months."

Gold futures dips almost 4%

Gold prices plunged ₹6,004 to ₹1.47 lakh per 10 gram in futures trade on Thursday amid intensified geopolitical tensions in West Asia that boosted the U.S. dollar. PTI

'West Asia crisis hits Helium supplies'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

The supply of Helium, a critical gas used to save lives and power technology seems suddenly at risk on account of geopolitics, observed industry experts.

Helium, a colourless, odourless, non-toxic, and inert gas and primarily used to cool superconducting magnets, MRI scanners, spectrometers and semiconductor fabs, has no or a few substitutes.

Over 50% of India's Helium imports traditionally come from Qatar, which accounts for some 34% of global helium exports. Missile strikes and force majeure at Qatar's Ras Laffan complex in March significantly reduced Qatar's Helium export capacity.

According to Ralf Gubler, research director for industrial gases and fertilizers at S&P Global Energy, India is 100% import-dependent for helium, making many industries, such as healthcare (MRI), semiconductors & electronics, fibre optics & display manufacturing etc. in the country acutely vulnerable to global disruptions.

Mr Gubler said liquid Helium was indispensable for cooling superconducting magnets (MRI scanners). If Helium levels fell below critical thresholds, superconductivity would be lost, the Helium rapidly quenches (vaporises) which even lead to damaging superconducting magnets resulting in long and costly repairs.

Most MRI scanners in India India rely on periodic refilling and failure risks magnet quench and multi-week downtime. Supply disruptions force hospitals to ration refills, delay installations and prioritise

Helium is used to cool superconducting magnets, MRI scanners and chip fabs.

emergency scans.

On India's helium demand and supply scenario, Mr. Gubler, said, the country's helium demand in 2025 was estimated at 3.4 million cubic tonne with zero domestic production.

'Eye other suppliers'

Mr. Gubler said India should benefit from multi-origin contracts, including Russia, the U.S. and emerging suppliers like South Africa and Tanzania.

In India, traces of Helium exist in natural gas fields in West Bengal and Jharkhand but concentrations are below the 0.2% economic threshold. Commercial viability is at least 5-10 years away, as per S&P Global Energy data.

Ashok Chandak, President, India Electronics & Semiconductor Association said, critical materials such as helium must be treated as strategic inputs as India scales its semiconductor ecosystem.

Sharp price increase

Typical inventories in India are for 7-10 days.

"Helium prices have seen a sharp surge of about 35-50% in recent weeks, with spot prices in some cases rising even higher. The impact is more in the form of cost pressures than production disruptions," Mr. Chandak said.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS - TIRUPATI
Office of the Chief Engineer — TENDER NOTICE
ADV No.75/D3/CE/TTD/2025-26 & NIT No.116 /SE-I/TTD/2025-26 Dt:30-03- 2026
Name of work: 1) Construction of a TTD Rest House with 100 rooms to facilitate piligrims at Sri Kodanda Rama Swamy Temple, Vontimitta, Kadapa District. Amount:1784.00 Lakhs, Time for Completion:18 months. NOTE: For full details, log on to the Website **https://www.tirumala.org.**
TTD-40021(31)/1/2026-PRO SEC(Adv.No.02) Date:02-04-2026 — EXECUTIVE OFFICER

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
TENDER INFORMATION
Online tenders are invited from experienced, reputed registered firms on open tender terms for maintenance of various 220 KV and 132 KV EHV substations and lines under RVPN Transmission System in (Jaipur City, Jaipur Rural, Alwar, Bharatpurcircles TN-122) and (Kota, Hindon, SawaiMadhopur circles TN-123) under Jaipur Zone (T&C) at **http:/eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.** All other information related to the tender can be obtained from the website **http:/eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http:/sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** and **www.rvpn.co.in** In future, tender date changes and other information will be published on the above website only.
UBN-VPN2526SLOB03565, VPN2526SLOB03566
Raj.Samwad/C/26/178 — RRVPN/TR-7467/2026 — Superintending Engineer (T&C-Jaipur City)

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Office:-Engineer-in-Chief/ P&M, PSPCL, Ludhiana.)
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in
Tender Enquiry no. 10/CE/P&M/2026
EIC/P&M, PSPCL, Ludhiana invites e-Tender for Detailed drone survey of 66KV transmission lines including AI analytics of captured data to generate reports for predictive & preventive maintenance. For detailed NIT & Tender specifications please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from **03.04.2026 (11:00 hrs)** onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**
1079/12/2026-27/10156 — **C 451/26**

कार्यालय नगरपरिषद् हनुमानगढ़ – राजस्थान
क्रमांक एफ.07(भण्डार)(गैराज)2025–26/18120 — दिनांक : – 27.03.2026
–: ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या 116/2024–25 :–
नगरपरिषद हनुमानगढ़ द्वारा ई–निविदा सूचना क्रमांक 18031–18039 दिनांक 25.03.2026 द्वारा राशि 252.65 लाख रुपये से हनुमानगढ़ टाउन व जंक्शन के विभिन्न वार्डो में कचरा परिवहन करने का कार्य प्रति ट्रेक्टर–ट्राली मय डीजल सहित का कार्य करवाये जाने हेतु योग्य फर्म/संस्था/एन.जी.ओ. से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई–टेण्डरिंग प्रक्रिया द्वारा दिनांक 22.04.2026 को सायं 3:00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाकर दिनांक 23.04.2026 को 3:00 बजे खोली जावेगी। निविदा की विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाईट **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** व **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखी जा सकती है तथा निविदा के प्रपत्रों को भी डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है।
(एन0आई0बी0 DLB2526B3627 यू0बी0एन0 संख्या (कुल 01 कार्य)
DLB2526SLOB40599
राज.संवाद/सी/26/54 — आयुक्त, नगरपरिषद् हनुमानगढ़

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED Ajmer
Qtr. No. II/2, PHED Colony, Vaishali Nagar, near RIICO Watch Factory,
Ph. No. 0145-2640265, email: acepajmer@gmail.com acepajm.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
S.No. F()ACE/Proj/Aj/AR-JJM /2025-26/8164 — Date: 24.03.2026
CORRIGENDUM NO.2
In continuation to this office NIT No. 03/2025-26 issued vide letter no. 2436-2491 dated 11.02.2026. The following amendment are hereby notified:-

S.N.	Description	As per original NIT	As per this corrigendum
1	Date & time for downloading of tender document	13.02.2026 at 10:00 AM to 16.03.2026 up to 06:00 PM	31.02.2026 at 10:00 AM to 15.04.2026 up to 6:00 PM
2	Date & time for online submission of tender	From 24.02.2026 at 10:00 AM to up to 16.03.2026 at 6:00 PM	Up to 15.04.2026 at 06:00 PM
3	Date & time of physical submission of tender fee, RISL charges and EMD	17.03.2026 at 01:00 PM	Up to 16.04.2026 at 01:00 PM
4	Date & time of opening of technical bid	17.03.2026 at 03:00 PM	Up to 16.04.2026 at 03:00 PM

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as mentioned in tender document.
(Gopesh Garg)
Additional Chief Engineer
DIPR/C/6299/2026 — (Project) PHED, Ajmer

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD
(IRRIGATION WING)
Notice Inviting Tender-Cum-Auction

Name of Office	NIT No./ Name of work	Starting date (Time)/ Closing Date (Time)	Cost of Tender Form Estimate Cost/ Earnest Money
Executive Engineer, BRSC & PD Division, BBMB, Sundernagar.	NIT No.1/BR 2026-27 "Desilting work of Balancing Reservoir, BBMB Sundernagar (H.P.)"	02/04/26 (17:00) 23-04-2026 (UPTO 12.30)	Rs. 5,000/- Rs. 5.00 Lacs Rs. 10000/-

It is also intimated that the detail Terms & Conditions can be seen on **(www.etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app.in)** and if any corrigendum for extension in due dates, if any should be uploaded on website **(www.etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app.in)** only by the concerned office and may not be published in Newspapers.
244-PR-Bd. Sectt.-4 FOR YOUR BETTER TOMORROW SAVE ENERGY TODAY

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग प्रथम –जोधपुर
क्रमांक– 19085 — दिनांक : 24.03.2026
अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या 40/पीएमजीएसवाई/2025–26
NIB No.PWD2526A6227
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना–चतुर्थ वर्ष 2025–26 बैच–प्रथम के अन्तर्गत स्वीकृत विमिन्न सड़क निर्माण के कार्य के निम्नलिखित कार्यों मय पांच साल की मरम्मत के लिए 2 पैकेज हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग/रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई–प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया से ऑन लाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेब साईट https://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व https://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in व https://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। पैकेजवाईज यू.बी.एन. निम्नानुसार है।

1. PWD2526WLOB26184	2. PWD2526WLOB26185

इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेब साईट https://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड होना आवश्यक है।
ई–साईन
(एन.सी. शर्मा)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता,
सा.नि.वि. संभाग प्रथम, जोधपुर
DIPR/C/6125/2026

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division, 2nd Floor, Shakthi Soudha 13th Cross Road, 4th B Main Road, M.C. Layout, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru-560 040.
No: BWCC/EE(GRN)/TN/GL/01/2026-27 — **Date: 02-04-2026**
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System)
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
Tenders on Item Rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bengaluru West City Corporation or Equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl No.	Name of the Work / Two Cover Works
1.	Comprehensive development of Roads, Drains and Other allied Infrastructure works in Nayandahalli in **Ward No.143,** Govindarajanagara Constituency **Amount put to tender: ₹. 163.62 Lakhs, EMD: ₹. 2,46,000/-**

Class of Contractors : Class (1) Cvil Contractor
Calendar of Events : (1) Last Date for uploading the filled proposals is **15-04-2026** upto **4:00** pm (2) Date of opening of Technical Proposals is **16-04-2026** after **4:30** pm (3) Date of Opening of Financial Proposals after approval of Technical Proposals through KPP Portal.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Govindarajanagara Division, Zone-2

APPOINTMENT

SALAR JUNG MUSEUM, HYDERABAD
(Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, New Delhi)
SITUATION VACANT
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for appointment to the following Group "A" Posts which are vacant in the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad.

Post No: 1

1.	Name of the Post	**Director**
2.	No of vacant post	01 (One Post)
3.	Whether reserved or unreserved	U.R.
4.	Classification	Gp. "A"
5.	Scale of Pay (Revised)	As per 7th CPC Level : 14 144200-218200
6.	Method of Recruitment	By Deputation (including short term contract), failing which by Direct Recruitment
7.	Age limit	Not exceeding 50 years. Relaxation in age limit applicable as per the extant orders of the Govt. of India.
8.	Period of Probation	2 years for direct recruits
9.	Educational and other qualifications	**1 Essential** (i) (a) A Master's degree from a recognized University; in Museology/History of Arts/Fine Arts/Archeology/History /Conservation/Chemistry/Persian/Arabic **With** (b) 10 years' experience of working in a reputed Museum/ Cultural Institution/University, out of which 5 years' experience should be in Administration as the Head of the Museum/Institution/University Department. For Academicians (ii) Professors in the Pay Band Rs.37400-67000 with a Grade pay of Rs.10,000 and possessing the qualification and teaching /research experience in any of the subjects mentioned in (i) (a) and experience as in (i) (b) above. **Or** Two years regular service as Associate Professor in the Pay Band of Rs.37,000-67,000 with a Grade pay of Rs.9,000 and possessing the qualification and teaching /research experience in any one of the subjects mentioned in (i) (a) and experience in as (i) (b) above. **2. Desirable** (a) Experience in Museum Administration and Management. (b) Computer Knowledge (M. S. Office). (c) Degree in Museology.

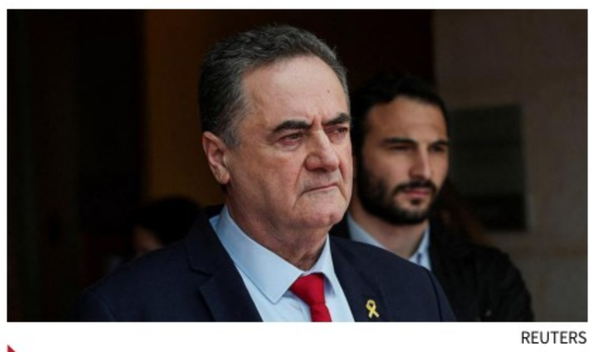
Post No: 2

1.	Name of the Post	**Joint Director**
2.	No of vacant post	01 (One)
3.	Whether reserved or unreserved	Unreserved
4.	Classification	Gp. "A"
5.	Scale of Pay (Revised)	As per 7th CPC Level : 13, 123100-215900
6.	Method of Recruitment	Deputation / Absorption
7.	Age limit	Not applicable
8.	Period of Probation, if any	-
9.	Educational and other qualifications	**Deputation / Absorption** 1. Officers belonging to Indian Administrative Service or Central Civil Services Group "A" (a) (i) Holding analogous posts on regular basis **OR** (ii) With five years regular service in posts in the scale of Rs.10,000-15,200 or equivalent **And** (a) With adequate administrative experience of 10 years

All applications shall be addressed to **The Curator (CM) & HOO, Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad – 500 002".** The applications should be sent under registered post with A/D indicating clearly on the top of the envelope, the post for which the application is sent. **The Last date for receipt of applications is 30th April 2026.** Applications received after the due date will not be considered and stand rejected.
For further details please visit the Museum's website: www.salarjungmuseum.in. Application form can be downloaded from Museum's website.
(Dr R B Naik)
Curator & HOO
Salar Jung Museum

JERUSALEM

Hezbollah chief to pay 'heavy price' for Jewish holiday attacks: Israel



REUTERS

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz on Thursday warned that Hezbollah chief Naim Qassem would pay an "extraordinarily heavy price" for escalating attacks during the ongoing Jewish holidays. "I have a clear message for Naim Qassem... you and your associates will pay an extraordinarily heavy price," Mr. Katz said. AFP

KYIV

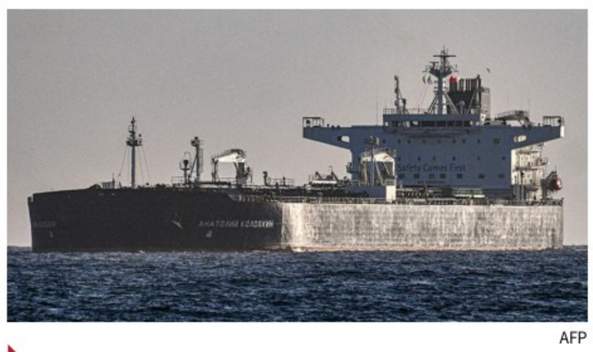
Russia fired record number of drones at Ukraine in March: data

REUTERS

Russia fired more drones at Ukraine in March than in any month since it launched its 2022 invasion, an analysis showed on Thursday. The analysis, which used daily reports published by Ukraine's air force, showed Russia fired at least 6,462 long-range drones and 138 missiles into Ukraine last month. AFP

MOSCOW

Russia will send second ship with oil to Cuba, says Energy Minister



AFP

Russia will send a second ship carrying oil to Cuba as the island grapples with a U.S. fuel blockade, Energy Minister Sergei Tsivilev said on Thursday. A Russian tanker (in the photo) carrying 730,000 barrels of crude arrived in the Cuban port of Matanzas on Tuesday, providing the island with its first oil shipment since January. AFP

KATHMANDU

Court extends detention of ex-PM Oli in probe into deadly crackdown

REUTERS

A Nepal court on Thursday extended the detention of former Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli and his ex-Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak for a further two days as investigators probe their alleged roles in a deadly crackdown on protests last year. Neither man has been formally charged and both deny responsibility for the violence. AFP

Trump seeks deal with 'Stone Age' bombing threat

Despite a month-long campaign by the U.S. and Israel, Iran continues to hit Israel, which is more than 2,000 km away, with missiles, and target American bases in the Persian Gulf region; Trump is using the threat of extensive strikes, including at civilian infrastructure, as an added layer of pressure to force Iran to shift its position and make a deal; Tehran says it is not ready for a ceasefire

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stanly Johny

Before U.S. President Donald Trump delivered his national address on the evening of April 1 in the White House, Iran and Hezbollah launched heavy missile attacks at Israel. While Mr. Trump was speaking about America's achievements in the war, including degrading Iran's missile capability, missile alerts were issued in the UAE. After Mr. Trump concluded his speech, Iran launched another salvo of missiles at Israel.

There was much speculation on what Mr. Trump was going to say in his first primetime national address since the U.S. and Israel launched the war on Iran on February 28. Some said he would escalate with a ground attack, while others said he would chicken out or issue a timeline to wind up operations. But the U.S. leader did not say anything new. The speech was largely a reassertion of the claims he has been making over the past few weeks. He said the U.S. was "on track to complete all of America's military objectives shortly". He also said the U.S. was going to hit Iran "extremely hard" over the next two to three weeks. "We are going to bring them back to the Stone Ages."

Mr. Trump said discussions were under way and asked the Iranians to make a deal. "If there is no deal, we are going to hit each and every one of their electric-generating plants very hard and properly simultaneously." He said the Strait of Hormuz, a critical waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman that has been taken control of by Iran after the war, is not America's problem. He had earlier asked America's allies to send ships to reopen the Strait – which nobody is willing to do.

He also indicated that he was not considering a ground operation to seize Iran's enriched uranium because it's buried deep underground. "It would take months to get near the nuclear dust," he said, adding that U.S. satellites are monitoring Iran's nuclear sites.

Trump's goals

While the main objective of the speech appeared to make the case for the war to the American public, it also underscores the limited options Mr. Trump has in winding down the conflict. In the speech Mr. Trump praised the Venezuela attack earlier this year. But in Venezuela, U.S. troops went in and got out with President Nicolas Maduro, handing the country to his Vice-President who is willing to work with Washington. In Iran, the assassination of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei seemed to have strengthened Iran's resolve to stand up to the U.S.

Donald Trump speaks during a televised address from the Cross Hall of the White House in Washington DC on Saturday. AFP

On February 28, when he launched the war, Mr. Trump outlined five broad objectives: to "raze" Iran's missile industry "to the ground"; to "annihilate" Iran's Navy; to ensure that Iran's "proxies" could no longer "destabilise" the region; to prevent Iran from ever obtaining a nuclear weapon; and to bring about regime change. "When we are finished, take over your government. It will be yours to take. This will be probably your only chance for generations," he said at the time. In his April 1 address, Mr. Trump claimed the U.S. was now completing all of these objectives.

Ground reality

The ground reality, however, tells a different story. Despite a month-long campaign by the U.S. and Israel, Iran continues to strike Israel, which is more than 2,000 km away, with ballistic missiles, and target American bases in the Persian Gulf region. Mr. Trump has claimed that he has annihilated Iran's navy, but he is not willing to send American troops to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

Israel is bombing Iran while carrying out a ground invasion in Lebanon against Hezbollah, an Iranian ally. But Iran and Hezbollah continue to launch coordinated attacks. Last week, Yemen's Ansar Allah (better known as Houthis), another Iranian ally, launched a ballistic missile at Israel, formally joining the war. The Houthis, who rule almost half of Yemen, have the capability to shut the Bab el Mandeb Strait, a chokepoint between the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea.

And Mr. Trump's last objective, regime change in Iran, remains distant. He now claims that regime change has already occurred, which is not a serious argument. The assassination of Ali Khamenei did not alter the state structure of Iran. If anything, it has strengthened elite cohesion within the Islamic Republic and further elevated the IRGC's standing in the system.

What Mr. Trump can do is continue bombing Iran, which is what he threatened to do in his speech. He is using the threat of extensive strikes, including at civilian infrastructure, as an added layer of pressure to force Iran to shift its position and make a deal. But if Mr. Trump follows through on his threats, Iran is likely to retaliate by attacking energy infrastructure across the Persian Gulf. In the words of Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, Tehran is not ready for a ceasefire.

With Mr. Trump lacking an exit path and Iran prepared to absorb the costs and play a longer game, the war is likely to drag on, with serious implications for the Persian Gulf and the broader global economy.

'U.S., Israeli attacks on Iran the root cause of Hormuz blockage'

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China said on Thursday that U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran were the "root cause" of the Strait of Hormuz blockage, after U.S. President Donald Trump called on affected countries to seize the key waterway.

Mr. Trump said countries that receive oil through the Hormuz Strait should "take care of that passage", which has been effectively closed by Tehran in retaliation for the U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran.

He urged such countries to "just take it, protect it, use it for yourselves".

China is a major importer of oil through the vital waterway and the Foreign Ministry in Beijing blamed the United States and Israel on Thursday.

"The root cause of interruptions to navigation through the Strait of Hormuz is the United States and Israel's illegal military operations against Iran," Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a news conference. She also told presspersons that "military means cannot fundamentally solve the problem, and the escalation of conflicts is not in the interests of either side".

Justice bleeding

Bound freedom: Palestinians take part in a protest against the execution of the Israeli death penalty law for Palestinians convicted in military courts of deadly attacks, in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip, on Thursday. REUTERS

Trump fires Bondi as Attorney-General: White House official

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump fired Attorney-General Pam Bondi on Thursday and named his former personal lawyer to serve as the acting chief of the Justice Department, a White House official said.

The move, which the Republican President announced in a social media post, comes amid criticism of Ms. Bondi's handling of the Epstein files.

"Pam Bondi is a Great American Patriot and a loyal friend, who faithfully served as my Attorney General over the past year," Mr. Trump said.

Pam Bondi

Ms. Bondi "will be transitioning to a much needed and important new job in the private sector," the President said, and will be replaced on an interim basis by Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche.

Foreign Secretary Misri participates in virtual meet hosted by U.K. on opening Hormuz Strait

The Hindu Bureau
LONDON

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri joined Foreign Ministers and bureaucrats from over 40 countries on a call hosted by the United Kingdom to discuss how the Strait of Hormuz – a crucial waterway for fuel shipments that borders Iran – might be reopened to ships, using diplomatic and political tools. The call comes as U.S. President Donald Trump repeatedly indicated that it would be up to those using the Strait to open it, after Tehran virtually sealed off the passage following the war with Israel and the U.S.

Mr. Misri mentioned the importance of freedom of navigation and transit through international waterways, as per a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

"He emphasised the impact of the crisis on India's energy security and the fact that India remains the only country to have lost mariners in attacks on merchant shipping in the Gulf," the statement said, adding that he called for de-escalation and dialogue.

"We have seen Iran hijack an international shipping route to hold the global economy hostage," said British Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper, who hosted the call. There had been

Vikram Misri

over 25 attacks on vessels in the Strait, and some 20,000 seafarers were trapped on roughly 2,000 vessels in the waterway, Ms. Cooper said at the start of the meeting.

The countries in Thursday's meeting backed the "immediate and unconditional opening" of the Strait, the Chair's statement said. They also discussed a number of possible coordinated actions in this regard, including the use of international diplomatic pressure, such as at the UN, to send coordinated messages to Iran to permit "unimpeded" passage via the Strait and to "comprehensively reject" the imposition of tolls.

Those on the call discussed coordination around economic pressure, including sanctions, to effect the opening of the Strait, as per the U.K.'s statement. The countries also discussed sharing information to increase operational and market confidence as well as working via the International Maritime Organisation, a UN agency, to secure the release of stranded sailors and ships, according to the statement.

India is among a handful of nations whose ships have been passing through the Strait following approval from Iran.

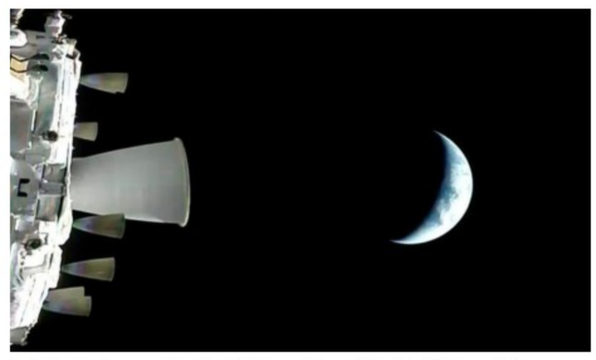
European countries have been pushing for dialogue while the U.S. has suggested that the Strait be pried open with force. Speaking to presspersons in South Korea on Thursday, French President Emmanuel Macron said using force to open the Strait was "unrealistic" and that talking to Iran was the only viable way forward.

NASA launches 4 astronauts on a crewed lunar mission

Agence France-Presse
KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

Four astronauts blasted off aboard a massive NASA rocket on Wednesday on a long-anticipated journey around the Moon, the first crewed lunar flyby in more than 50 years.

NASA teams and spectators alike were ecstatic as the spacecraft ascended into a radiant sky atop a cascade of flames. The team, who donned bright orange suits with blue trim as the mission began, includes Americans Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover and Christina Koch along with Canadian Jeremy Hansen. "We have a beautiful moonrise. We're headed right at it," said Mr. Wiseman, the mission commander.



In this photo provided by NASA, a view of the Earth from Orion spacecraft as it orbits above planet during the Artemis II flight. AP

U.S. President Donald Trump praised "our brave astronauts," calling the successful launch "quite something" at the top of his televised address on the war against Iran.

The astronauts are now in orbit around the Earth. They successfully completed "promixity operations" demonstrations, which tested how their Orion capsule can move.

PLAYING IT SMART

The set batters need to take it deep, feels KKR skipper Rahane

K.R. DEEPAK

I thought we needed a couple of big partnerships. Guys who were set needed to take it deep. With the ball I thought we came back really well. In batting, when you are chasing a target, you need that partnership but we didn't get that. In the second innings, I felt the ball was stopping slightly — KKR captain Ajinkya Rahane.

THINKING GAME

I keep two options open at the top of the mark, reveals Unadkat

K.R. DEEPAK

I keep two options open at the top of the mark and see whether the batter is trying to move around or clear his leg. And most of the time, it's about deciding then. Sometimes you're going to mix things at the end... changing the angles and trying to keep the batters guessing all the time — Purple Cap holder Jaydev Unadkat.

WAIT AND WATCH

I will answer after day 13, says a cheeky Ruturaj on Dhoni's return

R. RAGU

Chennai Super Kings captain Ruturaj Gaikwad remained tight-lipped when asked if M.S. Dhoni was on schedule to return to action. "I can answer when the 13th day is done. I will let you know at that time," Ruturaj responded cheekily. CSK, on Saturday, had said that Dhoni would be out for two weeks due to a calf strain.

ALL ABOUT FLEXIBILITY

PBKS has the depth to adapt to different pitches: Haddin

R. RAGU

We are very lucky with the flexibility that we have in our squad. We aren't worried about what surface we will get. We have built a good enough squad which has shown over time that we can cover (adapt to) most surfaces. We have enough cover in our squad to do what we need – Punjab Kings assistant coach Brad Haddin.

Sunrisers open account with a clinical win over Knight Riders

Head, Abhishek, Klaasen and Nitish take the visiting side to 226 for eight; the host loses its way after Raghuvanshi's run out

Making merry: Head, top, Abhishek, bottom, Klaasen and Nitish made the most of the perfect batting conditions as SRH ended up with a daunting total. K.R. DEEPAK

IPL-19

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) put up a united effort, including Nitish Kumar's all-round show and Heinrich Klaasen's solid half-century, to record a convincing 65-run victory over Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and open its account in IPL 2026 at the Eden Gardens here on Thursday.

After home skipper Ajinkya Rahane won the toss on his 200th appearance and inserted the visitors in, SRH relied on its flamboyant openers Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma's breathtaking knocks and Klaasen and Nitish Kumar's crucial contributions down the order to post a formidable 226 for eight.

In its first home match, KKR was all out for 161 to the disappointment of a packed house.

SRH's left-handed opening duo unleashed a carnage on a batter-friendly surface as the visitor raced to 84 for one in the PowerPlay.

Head (46) showcased his trademark fireworks on both sides by punishing Blessing Muzarabani and Vaibhav Arora, while Abhishek (48) plundered 25 runs, hammering two sixes over long-on and three fours on the off-side, off Varun Chakaravarthy to dent the spinner's confidence.

KKR fought back well. Head, who offered a hard chance on 34, miscued Kartik Tyagi to mid-on.

The KKR bowlers made further inroads and put the brakes on SRH's scoring rate.

Muzarabani varied his length and pace to have stand-in skipper Ishan Kishan and Abhishek caught on the ropes.

Spinners Anukul Roy and Sunil Narine bowled tidily in the middle overs.

Klaasen (52) and Nitish (39) steadied the ship with an 82-run stand.

Vaibhav dismissed Nitish and Salil Arora off consecutive deliveries in the 19th over.

Klaasen executed some big hits before falling to Muzarabani, who impressed with a four-wicket haul.

KKR stuttered in its reply as the SRH bowlers, including Nitish (two for 17), executed their plans well.

Early wickets

Finn Allen's belligerence earned KKR 25 runs in the first over but the Kiwi's stay was short-lived.

Rahane fell cheaply and Cameron Green was run out as KKR struggled at 74 for three.

The young Angkrish Raghuvanshi (52) showed maturity as he gathered runs faster to get his second consecutive half-century and keep the home team's chances alive.

However, his run out followed by quick wickets hampered KKR's progress.

Veteran left-arm medium-pacer Jaydev Unadkat finished with figures of three for 21 as KKR was bowled out in 16 overs.

SCOREBOARD

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD
Travis Head c Green b Tyagi 46 *(21b, 6x4, 3x6)*, Abhishek Sharma c Varun b Muzarabani 48 *(21b, 4x4, 4x6)*, Ishan Kishan c Rinku b Muzarabani 14 *(9b, 3x4)*, Heinrich Klaasen c Ramandeep b Muzarabani 52 *(35b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Aniket Verma c Rinku b Anukul 1 *(4b)*, Nitish Kumar c Varun b Vaibhav 39 *(24b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Salil Arora b Vaibhav 0 *(1b)*, Harsh Dubey (not out) 9 *(3b, 2x4)*, Shivang Kumar c Rahane b Muzarabani 4 *(2b, 1x4)*; Extras: (lb-4, w-9): 13; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 226.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-82 (Head, 5.4 overs), 2-111 (Kishan, 8.2), 3-112 (Abhishek, 8.4), 4-118 (Aniket, 9.2), 5-200 (Nitish, 18.1), 6-200 (Salil, 18.2), 7-222 (Klaasen, 19.4), 8-226 (Shivang, 19.6).

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING
Vaibhav 4-0-47-2, Muzarabani 4-0-41-4, Narine 4-0-39-0, Varun 2-0-31-0, Tyagi 4-0-48-1, Anukul 2-0-16-1.

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
Ajinkya Rahane c Malinga b Unadkat 8 *(10b)*, Finn Allen **(Impact Player for Muzarabani)** c & b Harsh 28 *(7b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Angkrish Raghuvanshi run out 52 *(29b, 6x4, 2x6)*, Cameron Green run out 2 *(2b)*, Rinku Singh c Unadkat b Nitish 35 *(25b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Anukul Roy c Kishan b Nitish 0 *(2b)*, Ramandeep Singh c Unadkat b Malinga 10 *(9b, 1x4)*, Sunil Narine c Aniket b Malinga 12 *(4b, 2x6)*, Kartik Tyagi c Kishan b Unadkat 5 *(5b, 1x4)*, Vaibhav Arora (not out) 1 *(2b)*, Varun Chakaravarthy b Unadkat 0 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-7): 8; Total (in 16 overs): 161.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-30 (Allen, 1.3), 2-67 (Rahane, 4.6), 3-74 (Green, 5.6), 4-120 (Raghuvanshi, 10.6), 5-120 (Anukul, 11.2), 6-139 (Rinku, 13.4), 7-154 (Narine, 14.3), 8-159 (Ramandeep, 14.6), 9-161 (Tyagi, 15.5).

SUNRISERS BOWLING
Payne 2-0-35-0, Harsh 2-0-17-1, Abhishek 1-0-15-0, Unadkat 3-0-21-3, Malinga **(Impact Player for Head)** 2-0-14-2, Shivang 4-0-41-0, Nitish 2-0-17-2.
Toss: Kolkata Knight Riders.
PoM: Nitish Kumar.
Sunrisers won by 65 runs.

Next assignment

SRH: April 5 vs. LSG Hyderabad, 3.30 p.m.

KKR: April 6 vs. PBKS Kolkata, 7.30 p.m.

Super Kings bank on home comfort as they face Kings

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Every time Chennai Super Kings marches into the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, there is palpable excitement and an electric atmosphere. Part of the reason is that the ground was once a fortress, and visiting teams often knew they were underdogs at best.

However, things changed dramatically in the previous edition when Super Kings lost five of six games at home in what turned out to be the team's worst campaign.

On Friday, when CSK saunters in for its first home match of the season against Punjab Kings, the air might still carry the buzz, but there is bound to be a tinge of nerves as the former champion looks to reassert dominance at Chepauk.

The five-time champion kick-started its 2026 campaign on a sour note, enduring an eight-wicket thrashing by Rajasthan Royals in Guwahati. Despite beefing up its batting resources, Super Kings could only manage 127 against Royals, from which it never recovered.

Now banking on home comfort and on a pitch that is expected to be benign and flat, Super Kings will hope the firepower it assembled at the auction table delivers where it matters.

It will also be Sanju Samson's maiden appearance at the den, and the aficionados would want him to deliver straightaway.

However, it won't be easy against a confident PBKS, which prevailed over Gujarat Titans. The bowling attack has variety, led by Marco Jansen and the wily Yuzvendra Chahal, who set up that win on Tuesday.

In the chase, debutant Cooper Connolly showed great temperament in guiding the side through nervy moments to polish off a moderate target.

Up for a fight: Ruturaj's men will be keen to hit top form after a debacle in their season-opener R. RAGU

Today's match

Chennai, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 32
CSK 16 | PBKS 16

PREVIOUS MEETING
PBKS won by four wickets, 2025

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

Shreyas likely to play

Meanwhile skipper Shreyas Iyer, who copped a blow to his wrist in the previous game, seems to be on the mend and is likely to start. PBKS got the better of CSK in the last three fixtures at Chepauk and will look to extend that streak in the battle of the Kings.

We need to give youngsters the time to blossom, says Super Kings captain Ruturaj

S. Shrivathsan
CHENNAI

Filling the void left by proven match-winners and established names is like replacing the irreplaceable. But none can escape the constant of change.

Chennai Super Kings, an IPL franchise which was once labelled the 'Dad's Army' for recruiting many veterans, has been injecting young blood into the squad in recent times as it hopes to bring back the glory days.

No child's play

Captain Ruturaj Gaikwad, however, admitted that it is no child's play to start clicking straightaway with a bunch of youth.

"Till the end of the last cycle, we had the best experienced players who were available.

"But looking at this team, it is a very young one.

"The excitement is obviously there, but there is a lot of difference between experienced and inexperienced players," said Ruturaj ahead of the clash against Punjab Kings, scheduled on Friday.

His master's voice: Mhatre will hope to follow Dhoni's batting advice for the rest of the season. R. RAGU

"We have to allow them (youngsters) to make mistakes. We have to make sure that they are in a good headspace. We just have to stay positive and hope for the best. Even if it does not happen, we must know that it is a long process. It will definitely happen one day."

Ruturaj called for patience despite having the understanding that an indifferent start could prove detrimental to the team's playoff chances.

"There is a lot of pressure to get into that high level of performance. They are learning slowly. Sometimes, it takes time. The more games they play, the better they will get," he added.

CSK is slow, but is it steady enough to win the IPL 2026 race?

Rizvi grabs the chance to bat at No. 4

Dhruva Prasad
LUCKNOW

Even in the era of modern T20 cricket, where roles are amorphous and benchmarks are constantly shifting, clarity has a stabilising effect. At the Ekana Stadium on Wednesday, with chaos roiling around him, the 22-year-old Sameer Rizvi came of age with an unbeaten 70 that guided Delhi Capitals to a six-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants.

On a night when the opposition tinkered with its batting line-up and botched up its Impact Player substitution before his own team was staring down the barrel at 26 for four in the fifth over while chasing 142, not many would have blamed the Meerut-born batter had he lost his way. However, Rizvi, who came in as DC's Impact Player, grabbed the opportunity.

"The coaches had already told me that I would bat at No. 4, and they told me they would back my natural positive game. I bat at No. 4 even for Uttar Pradesh and in the UPT20 League. If I get to bat there in the IPL, it is a huge opportunity for me."

With LSG's pacers making the ball talk in seam-friendly conditions, he took nine deliveries to get off the mark. But Rizvi dispelled the notion that he would struggle against genuine pace by ramping Anrich Nortje for a six.

"I got a lot of confidence from that shot. After that, I was relaxed and felt that we could continue playing normal cricket," said Rizvi.

Rizvi... in full flow. R.V. MOORTHY

INBRIEF

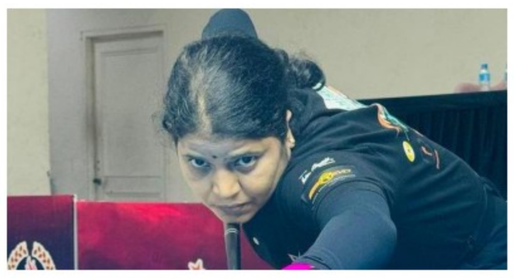
India storms past Bhutan, enters SAFF u-20 final

India marched into the final of the SAFF u-20 championship, defeating Bhutan 5-0 in Male, Maldives, on Wednesday. The defending champion set up a summit clash against Bangladesh on Friday after the latter defeated Nepal 1-0 in the other semifinal.

The result: India 5 (Omang Dodum 4, M.D. Arbash 44, Rohen Singh Chaphamayum 56, 57, Malemngamba Thokchom 90+2) bt Bhutan 0.

Aditya routs Alhawsaw to make 65kg quarterfinals

National champion Aditya Pratap Yadav registered a 5-0 win over Saudi Arabia's Mousa Alhawsaw to enter the men's 65kg quarterfinals of the Asian boxing championships in Ulaanbaatar on Thursday. Aditya will face Uzbekistan's Abdulloh Madaminov.



Chitra ends drought, regains 9-ball pool National title

Karnataka's Chitra Magimairaj ended a nine-year title drought with a 7-4 win over Madhya Pradesh's Ishika Shah in the final of the women's 9-ball pool Nationals in Ludhiana on Thursday. It was her third 9-ball title and fourth pool National crown.

Franchises and squads announced for an expanded 15-event IGPL season

Ghei, Kapur, Bhullar the marquee names in the fray; five events will be played overseas; stars to play both at team and individual level

GOLF

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Ready to tee off: The various team owners with IGPL co-founder Yuvraj Singh and CEO Uttam Singh Mundy. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The squad and franchise announcement for the AM Green India Golf Premier League saw the organisers increasing the number of events from 11 to 15 for the season, including five overseas, although the schedule and other logistics are yet to be finalised.

The format means the golfers will be playing at both the team and individual level simultaneously through the year. Each team has four players competing for individual prizes from a pool of ₹1.5 crore at every event while also representing their team.

The two best scores from each team every day will count towards the team placings. Points will be accumulated over the season with the top three at the end of the year rewarded.

"Last year we had 11 events because we had less time. This year, we have gone up to 15 events, to be held through the year, with 10 at home and five overseas.

"The decision was taken to also give enough time to our players to try and concentrate on events outside India on the higher tours – International Series, Asian Tour and others – and probably try and participate in Qualifying Schools for the European Tour or elsewhere," IGPL CEO Uttam Singh Mundy explained.

However, not all top players on the IGPL tour have signed up for the league as well with veteran Gaurav Ghei, Shiv Kapur and Gaganjeet Bhullar being the only marquee names. The first three international venues will be in Mauritius, South Africa and Congo later this month.

"There is a lot of young talent out there that needs exposure and eventually, in the next 5-10 years, they will get there internationally," said co-founder and former cricketer Yuvraj Singh.

The squads: Mumbai: Aman Raj, Udayan Mane, Aadil Bedi, Tushar Pannu. **Goa:** Varun Chopra, Saarthak Chhibber, Aalaap I.L., Kanav Chauhan. **Kolkata:** Varun Parikh, Sukhman Singh, Syed Saqib Ahmed, Kartik Sharma. **Vizag:** Manav Shah, Dharma M, Milind Soni, Danish Verma. **Bengaluru:** Veer Ganapathy, Sunhit Bishnoi, Trishul Chinnappa, Sudhir Sharma. **Gurugram:** Pukhraj Singh Gill, Shaurya Binu, Shat Mishra, Digraj Singh Gill. **Punjab:** Karandeep Kochhar, Kapil Kumar, Harendra Gupta, C. Muniyappa. **Hyderabad:** Sachin Baisoya, Raghav Chugh, Arjun Bhatti, Ranjit Singh. **Delhi:** Shiv Kapur, Aryan Roopa Anand, Chiragh Kumar, Gaurav Ghei. **Chennai:** Gaganjeet Bhullar, Yashas Chandra M.S., Samarth Dwivedi, Harshjeet Singh Sethie.

On a mission: Sahaja, Vaishnavi, DLTA general secretary (operations) Lt. Col. Ranbir Chauhan, Uppal, Vaidehee and Rutuja.

Indian women gear up for BJK Cup, target a second straight World Group playoffs

TENNIS

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Having reached the World Group playoffs for only the second time last year, the Indian women's tennis team would be hoping to repeat the feat while playing at home for the second successive time when the Billie Jean King Cup Asia/Oceania Group I gets underway here from April 7.

The Indian team is having a five-day preparatory camp at the Delhi Lawn Tennis Association (DLTA) Stadium –venue for the competition – and had its first training session on Thursday morning. With the matches scheduled to begin only in the second half of the day and continue under lights, the team is expected to switch to training in the evening for the remaining days.

Sweating it out
Ankita Raina, Sahaja Yamalapalli, Vaishnavi Adkar, Shrivalli Bhamidipaty, Rutuja Bhosale and Vaidehee Chaudhari sweated it under the watchful eyes of captain Vishal Uppal, who will be hoping to get the team combinations right.

Besides India, the other teams include New Zealand, Indonesia, Thailand, Mongolia and Korea with the top-two advancing to the playoffs in November.

Good show
India won against Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand and Korea before losing to Slovenia and Netherlands in the playoffs last year.

Young Tigresses fall to a defeat against Japan

FOOTBALL

Sports Bureau

India suffered a 0-6 drubbing at the hands of Japan in their AFC Under-20 Women's Asian Cup 2026 opener on Thursday in Pathum Thani, Thailand.

The Young Tigresses began proceedings on an attacking note, but it was the Young Nadeshiko who opened the account in the 12th minute through an own goal off Thoibisana Chanu Toijam. The Indians managed to keep the scoreline at 0-1 at half-time.

Japan doubled its lead through Miki Kimura in the 54th minute, which opened the floodgates. Noa Fukushima, Natsumi Tago, Miyu Matsunaga, and Yura Honda compounded India's troubles with a goal each, peppered across the remainder of the half.

India is in Group C, with Australia and Taiwan. Earlier in the day, the Australians handed Taiwan a 5-0 defeat.

Joakim Alexandersson's India next plays Australia on April 5.

The result:
Japan 6 (Thoibisana Chanu Toijam 12-og, Miki Kimura 54, Noa Fukushima 57, Natsumi Tago 75, Miyu Matsunaga 81, Yura Honda 87) bt India 0.

Van der Dussen, SA batter, calls it a day

Press Trust of India
JOHANNESBURG

van Der Dussen. FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

Left out of this year's centrally-contracted list, South Africa batter Rassie van der Dussen on Thursday announced his international retirement without specifying any reasons but said he will remain available for his domestic side Lions.

The 37-year-old from Johannesburg, who hasn't turned up in national colours since March last year, played 18 Tests, 71 ODIs and 57 T20 Internationals after making his debut in 2018 as a 29-year-old.

"It is with a proud heart and a profound sense of gratitude that I announce my retirement from international cricket," van der Dussen said on 'X'.

"To wear the Proteas jersey is a feat that demands a level of resilience and dedication that both tests, and rewards you in the most incredible way.

"While my time in a Proteas shirt has come to an end, my journey is not over. I will continue to play for my beloved Lions, and I am committed to giving back to this beautiful game by teaching and mentoring the next generation of South African cricketers," he added in a lengthy post.

Van der Dussen made his debut in 2018 in a T20I against Zimbabwe before becoming an all-format player.

He averaged over 50 for his 2,657 runs including six hundreds and 17 fifties in ODIs.

LIVE TELECAST

ISL: Sony Sports Ten 2 & FanCode, 7.30 p.m.

IPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Westwood has tough task with Blasters

P.K. Ajith Kumar
KOCHI

Kerala Blasters is going through a nightmare. It is lying 13th among the 14 teams of the ISL, with five losses and a draw.

So Ashley Westwood has a task on his hands. The Englishman with a lot of experience in Indian football has taken over as the new coach, in place of the Spaniard David Catala.

Big challenge
He admits it is a big challenge. "I have to get some morale back, some confidence, some team spirit and to obviously try and improve performances," Westwood, who had guided Bengaluru FC to the I-League title in the club's first season, told *The Hindu*. "I have had a few chats with the players and the support staff."

Westwood, a former England youth international who played for Bradford City in the English Premier League, said he accepted the job from the Blasters management because he wanted to help the team.

"I know Indian football quite well," he said. "I just wanted to come here and help. They reached out to me after the match against Punjab FC."

The offer came to Westwood, who has also worked with ATK and RoundGlass Punjab, at the right time: he had left his coaching job with the Hong Kong national team.

"Seven weeks, roughly, and seven games, so it fitted well for me at the minute," he reasoned. "And I am happy to be with Blasters at Kochi, which is a fantastic city."

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Garuda defeats Dharwad District
Garuda HC defeated Dharwad District HA 6-1 in the KSHA 'B' division hockey league on Thursday.

Beagles puts it across Vivek's
Beagles BC defeated Vivek's SC 78-61 in the State junior boys' basketball championship.
The results: Boys: M.N.K. Rao Park 64 (Aakash 18) bt Dakshina Kannada 49 (Deekshith 20); Beagles 78 (Harshan 18, Jayanth 10) bt Vivek's 61 (Anshul 24). **Girls:** Bangalore Vanguards 71 (Aditi 32, Pranjali 15) bt Mandya District 52 (Manasa 13); Beagles 67 (Swathi 16, Purvi 14) bt Vivek's 53 (Manasvi 18, Devi 14).

Big win for Rajajinagar
Rajajinagar took out Yelahanka 6-1 in the KSFA-Vaishnavi Chief Minister Cup football tournament.
The results:
Rajajinagar bt Yelahanka 6-1; Sarvagnanagar drew with K.R. Puram 2-2.